

1 Corinthians 16:1-4 – Giving in Light of the Resurrection

Now concerning the collection for the saints: as I directed the churches of Galatia, so you also are to do. ² On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper, so that there will be no collecting when I come. ³ And when I arrive, I will send those whom you accredit by letter to carry your gift to Jerusalem. ⁴ If it seems advisable that I should go also, they will accompany me.

1. What stands out to you as the main point of this passage? Through your reading and reflecting on this passage and the message on Sunday, what has God been laying on your heart?
2. Throughout your experience and involvement with a local church, what have the conversations around money, giving, and generosity been like? Why do you think the subject of money in the Church is often an uncomfortable/sensitive one?
3. Read **v.2** of our passage. Notice that Paul does not tell anyone how much to give, but encourages each person to “put something aside and store it up, **as he may prosper**”. What is the principle at hand? How should we apply this principle today?

Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. (2 Corinthians 9:7)

4. Where does true generosity toward the work of the Church, one’s neighbours, and people-in-need stem from? How does generosity point people to the greatness of God and what He has done for us?

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich. (2 Corinthians 8:9)

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal,²⁰ but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also (Matthew 6:19-21)

5. What does it mean to make eternal Kingdom of God investments vs. earthly investments with our money? I.e: What do you think Jesus refers to when He calls us to lay up for ourselves *treasures in heaven*? What gets in your way or stops you from making such investments?

6. Read **Matt. 6:21**. In what way does our spending of our earthly treasure *indicate* the cares and priorities of our heart? To what degree do you think our spending of our earthly treasure *influences* the cares and priorities of our hearts? How should this truth inform how we choose to invest our resources? Do you have a framework or process by which you decide how to use your money? If so, what is it?

7. How does the truth of this passage stir up our love for God and drive us to pursue Him as a community of faith?

For personal reflection (together with your spouse/family if applicable): Are you giving to the work of the gospel and to people in need in a way that allows you to remain comfortable and ‘tick a box’, or sacrificially in a way that you feel it? Think about Jesus’ words in Matthew 6. If you look at where your money is going right now, what might your spending indicate about where your heart truly is? How are your current investments influencing what you care about and what you give your attention to?

8. How is God asking you to respond to His word – First, in confession and prayer? And then in action empowered by God’s Spirit?

Spend time praying together as a group as the Holy Spirit has prompted you through the truth of this passage.