

# GENEROSITY

## F O R U M

**Speaker:** Gordon MacDonald

**Date:** January 12, 2009

### Generosity

#### *Confronting the Storm*

- Current economic situation
- Story of Jesus sleeping through the storm – where's your faith? (Luke 8:22-25)
- Christian leadership in the world: the storm as an unavoidable tester
- Deuteronomy 17 → leadership is so often undercut by the following 3 challenges: Money, sex and power

#### *Personal Stories*

- Essential experience that forms view of money
- Learning to be an 'unpretentious' young boy
- First experience of generosity – Giving away everything to a missionary friend
- Unable to out give God
- Tithing: Gail's theology of finances – an un-circumstantial conviction & principle

#### *MacDonald's Essential Financial Philosophy*

- 1) We will always live within 80% of our income.
- 2) We will always give a minimum of 10% and every year try to raise that number.
- 3) We will never again go into debt (exception: a house mortgage) – If we can't pay for it within 30 days, then we won't buy it.
- 4) We will try to put away a reasonable amount of money every year so that when we reach our older years we can serve the Lord without worrying about a financial income.
- 5) We will give our children a debt free college education.

#### *Jesus' 5 Major Biblical Parables Concerning Finances*

- Talents (Matt. 25) → expectation of investing for Kingdom purposes – making a profit in everything we do
- Rich young man (Matt. 19) → give everything to the poor – money as identity
- Rich fool (Lk. 12) → how is your soul with money?

- Good Samaritan (Lk. 10) → an ability to see the poor, struggling and suffering everyday in order to know where investments ought to be targeted [how easy it is to use money to build a bubble of isolation but discovering that money cannot protect you from everything]
- Rich man and Lazarus (Lk. 16) → going against the monstrous stream of nearsightedness in order to see the eternal path these scenarios lead to

### ***Accountability in the End***

- What did you do with what God allowed you to have?
- How did you handle yourself in the storm?
- Where did you elude?

### ***Concluding Statements & Challenges***

- Answer to these questions is based on the way we form our theology of money
- Having hope and courage in managing money while advising and encouraging others to give generously
- Who is God entrusting us with to influence?

### ***Questions (proposed at the beginning):***

- 1) What one thought have you heard that particularly provoked you? (This is the one thought I'm going to have to grapple with today.)
- 2) When do I remember (as a young child), a story that began to form my first view of the use of money? Have you ever charted the unfolding of your own view of finances?
- 3) When have you seen money its most corrupted or corrosive?