

13 Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me." 14 But he said to him, "Man, who made me a judge or arbitrator over you?" 15 And he said to them, "Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." 16 And he told them a parable, saying, "The land of a rich man produced plentifully, 17 and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?' 18 And he said, 'I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods.' 19 And I will say to my soul, 'Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.'" 20 But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' 21 So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God."

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Summary

Our natural tendency is to take care of ourselves. The first thought we have when we're blessed with more is to figure out how to keep it for ourselves or use it to promote ourselves. The issue is not about the things we have, but our perspective and our attitude toward them. Are we closed handed or open handed? It's the direction of our riches (toward self or toward God) that makes the real difference!

- We tend to think the opposite of greed is gratitude (being thankful for what we have) but Jesus seems to be calling us even further. He calls us to be generous and open handed with what He has given; not just giving out of our excess but making an intentional change in our life style. In your life what is it easiest to be open handed with and why? What do you tend to be closed handed with and why? What do you think it takes to move from a posture of close handed to open handed? What would you have to believe about God and yourself for that shift to happen?

 - When it seems as if resources are limited, generosity can be difficult. Many of us live with a scarcity mindset instead of an abundance mindset. Our generosity is very personal to each one of us. What does giving mean to you? Before this series, what would be the reason that you would tell someone why you chose to participate in giving? What would be a reason you'd give now as God has been teaching us more about generosity? What would it take for you to put yourself in a better position for God to work and shape you in this important area?

 - Brainstorm a list of things that you would need to consider in making a generosity commitment.
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On The Potter's Wheel *(Personal Reflection)*

This week take some time to list everything that you have. Brainstorm some creative ways for you to use those things to honor God and write that next to each item you listed. God is likely not asking you to give 100% of what you have, but He is asking us to honor Him with 100%. Ask the Lord to show you what you are holding onto. Where does He want you to use the things that He has given you for His kingdom?