

JOURNEY TO GENEROSITY: THE WAY OF JESUS

“The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.” Matthew 9:35-10:23

One virtue of this passage for today’s church, with respect to stewardship, is that it underlines the importance of making as clear a choice as possible in using resources in favor of the Realm of God. Individuals, households, and congregations become clearer and deeper in stewardship commitment when we make a deliberate “Yes.”

By making a strong pledge of time, talent, money, and other resources, we reinforce others who have already done so, and we encourage those who have not done as much to do the same. Another virtue of the passage is that it underscores the fact that our choices have long-term consequences.

We may not believe that failure to give to the church is going to keep us out of heaven, but we certainly know that investing money in the work of ministry and mission on behalf of others improves the quality of life in our community. It also directly benefits us with a sense of purpose, overall well-being, and being a part of something that is larger than ourselves. It is good for us!

To accept the command of Jesus to engage in bringing wholeness to a fragmented world is to be on a mission that matters. It is a mission that is not without risk, cannot be taken without deep personal commitment, and requires that we ultimately trust God to provide what we need. Then again, most things that matter in life are not necessarily easy or without effort.

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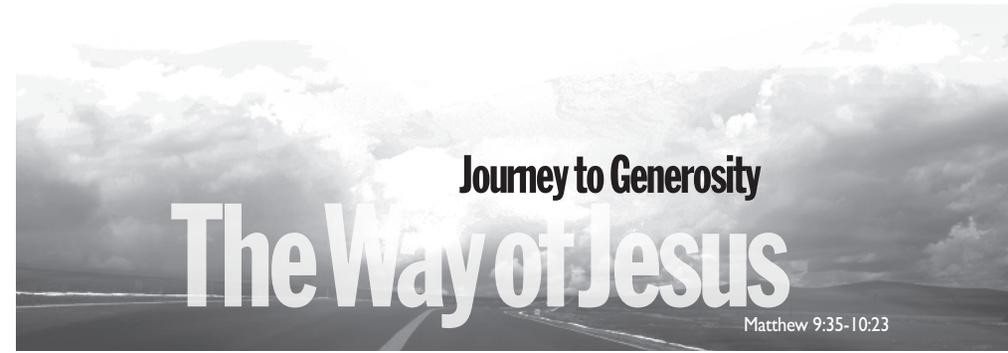
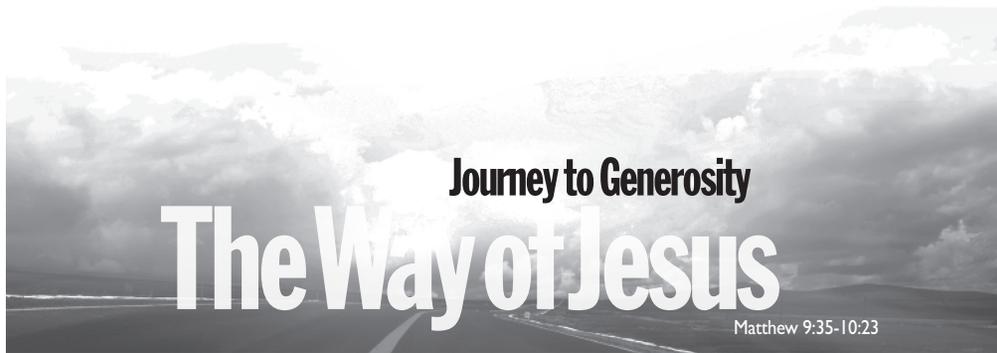
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