

## Week 4

# Becoming a Cheerful Giver

Jeff Gordon

God already has done great things in Xenos and he is calling us to much more. This is not the time to relax! We face an exciting future with big challenges—to keep growing we need to make major capital investments in three projects. Without this investment, progress and growth is almost certain to stall. Each of us has the opportunity to invest in this righteous venture and be part of the sustained advancement of God's work.

We are investing in lives, not buildings. Jesus commands us to invest wisely and, “Lay up treasure in heaven.” We can invest in people, who are eternal beings, and therefore lay up heavenly treasure. We are embracing three projects that focus on changing lives and embody God's priority for this church.

We are eager to invest and build so we can be part of God's loving hand that is reaching into this broken world. God is working through Xenos in many ways, and we each must decide whether we want to be part of extending his reach.

These are big projects and the price-tag presents a challenge. Our goal is to raise \$5 million in gifts. God is giving each of us the opportunity to be part of what he's doing. He's doing a great work; do you want to be part of it?

Our goal is 100 percent participation! We believe God is calling the church to these great works.

### **For discussion:**

Read 1 Chronicles 29

What motivated David to give?

How did he lead?

What was the outcome of David's leadership?

Read vs. 9. Why did the people rejoice?

What effect will generosity have on your personal life?

What effect will generosity have on the life of our church?

What effects could we expect if we are not generous?

## God Rescued Me

*Jeff Gordon*

I thank God regularly that he rescued me from a life of agony. I'm most deeply moved by the way God has changed my relationships. He's changed me so that I've been able to have great friendships and a growing marriage of twenty-one years. I'm also super thankful that he's given me a refreshing new perspective on possessions.

I came to Christ about twenty-three years ago while I was in medical school. I looked forward to a life of prestige and the wealth afforded a physician. As I grew in my relationship with Christ I began to realize that the unseen things like relationships are more important than material things. As a result, I decided to invest less time in making money and more time in people: That decision has brought great joy to my life. The other important realization was that I could share my wealth to help promote God's agenda and help the poor.

As God taught us to give generously, he brought tremendous joy and a sense of contentment that possessions or money never provided. Here's a paradox I learned: When we don't look to material things for joy or security, then we can enjoy them. We're content and thankful for what we have. Besides that, there is great joy in knowing that our donations support God's work in significant ways here in Columbus and around the world. We also get to experience God's power and faithfulness as he provides for our needs as we give. I think this perspective will have a lasting impact on our kids too. Finally, there's something really sweet about the fact that God looks on with joy when we, his children, serve him and love others with our money.

I encourage you to consider all the benefits of being generous and the perils of being self-absorbed and possessive. Make decisive moves in your life against self-centeredness by being generous and you will see great reward in this life and in the life to come.

### **Prayer Points:**

- Thank God for David and Israel's example of generosity.
- Ask God to move in our church to produce a similar result.
- Ask God to show you how your life and home church could be changed through generous sacrifice like this.
- Pray that 100 percent of Xenos members would give to help fund these projects.
- Pray for the major donor campaign over the next two weeks-for generosity among those with financial resources.