

Introduction:

Our lives are a product of the rhythms or habits we've embraced.

Questions to ponder:

Are the rhythms of my life producing...

- The kind of person I long to be?
- The kind of friend I want to be?
- The kind of spouse I want to be?
- The kind of parent I want to be?
- The life of Christ in me?

The problem:

Instead of thoughtfully engaging with our rhythms, our tendency is to get caught up in the rhythms of the world around us.

The answer:

The purpose of Jesus coming to earth is to give us life!

John 10:10

What are sacred rhythms?

Sacred rhythms are spiritual practices that help cultivate, over the course of time, the life of Christ in the follower of Jesus.

- **The Warning:** Sacred rhythms can turn into a form of _____ Matthew 6:1
_____.
- The issue is not public or private, it's heart _____.
- Sacred rhythms are transformational when we move them from _____ piety to _____ intimacy.

The rhythm of generosity:

² “So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. ³ But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴ so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.”

Matthew 6:2-4 (NIV)

Embracing the rhythm of generosity:

- Tithing _____ our hearts to _____ God.
- Generosity must be learned. It does not come naturally.
- Whatever we value and treasure in this life is what controls our heart.

Matthew 6:19-21
Luke 16:10, 13

Understanding the practice of tithing:

- Tithe literally means a _____.
- We are to give to God _____.
- God asks us to _____ Him.
- It's a pre-decision in our _____.
- The blessing of God is so that we can _____ in good work.

Leviticus 27:30
Matthew 23:23

Proverbs 3:9-10

Malachi 3:10

Luke 6:38
2 Corinthians 9:6

2 Corinthians 9:8

Conclusion:

The rhythm of generosity begins with the practice of tithing.

Discussion Questions:

1. What are your daily rhythms of life? Do they produce the kind of person you want to be?
2. Are the rhythms of your life producing the life of Christ in you? Why or why not?
3. What new insight did you gain concerning generosity? How could this help your perspective in your current situation?
4. Are you exercising the sacred rhythm of generosity? If not, what hinders you?