



**Part 1: The Heart of The Matter  
Pastor Dave Patterson  
Small Group Sermon Notes**

**USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE**

We have provided all the Scriptures referenced in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to facilitate a discussion.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together.

While the questions are important, remember your small group's goal is not to pound through the questions but to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships, so knock yourself out with the discussion questions but spend

***We have been blessed to be a blessing! The foundation of the blessed life is a matter of the heart.***

**[Galatians 3.26-29]**

*For you are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus. And all who have been united with Christ in baptism have put on Christ, like putting on new clothes. There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male and female. For you are all in Christ Jesus. And now that you belong to Christ, you*

*are the true children of Abraham. You and his heirs, **and God's promise to Abraham belongs to you.***

**[Luke 6.37-38]**

*"Judge not, and you shall not be judged...For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you."*

**[Matthew 7.1-2]**

*"**Judge** not, that you be not **judged**. For with what **judgment** you **judge**, you will be **judged**; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you."*

**[Luke 6.37-38]**

*"Judge not, and you shall not be judged. Condemn not, and you shall not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you."*

**[Deuteronomy 15.1-8]**

*At the end of every seventh year you must cancel the debts of everyone who owes you money. This is how it must be done. Everyone must cancel the loans they have made to their fellow Israelites. They must not demand payment from their neighbors or relatives, for the LORD's time of release has arrived. There should be no poor among you, for **the***

**LORD your God will greatly bless you** in the land he is giving you as a special possession. **You will receive this blessing if you are careful to obey all the commands of the LORD your God** that I am giving you today. The LORD your God will bless you as he has promised. You will lend money to many nations but will never need to borrow. You will rule many nations, but they will not rule over you. If there is among you a poor man of your brethren, within any of the gates in your land which the LORD your God is giving you, you shall not **harden your heart** nor **shut your hand** from your poor brother, but you shall open your hand wide to him and willingly lend him sufficient for his need, whatever he needs.

**Obedience is aligned and prerequisite for preparation for the blessing of God.**

## **1. Deal with a Selfish Heart.**

**[Deuteronomy 15.9]**

Beware lest there be a **wicked** thought in your **heart**, saying, 'The seventh year, the year of release, is at hand,' and your eye be evil against your poor brother and you give him nothing, and he cry out to The Lord against you, and it **become sin** among you.

**[Luke 6.30-35]**

*"Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. Do to others as you would have them do to you. If you love those who love you, what credit is that you? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who are good to you,*

*what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that. And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, expecting to be prepaid in full. But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. **Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked.**"*

***Giving is the primary way for us to push back selfishness in our lives.***

## **2. Deal with a Grieving Heart.**

**[Deuteronomy 15.10]**

*Give generously to them, and **your heart should not be grieved when you give**, then because of this the LORD your God will bless you in all your work and in everything you put your hand to.*

## **3. Develop with a Generous Heart.**

**[Deuteronomy 15.13-14]**

*And when you release them (those indebted), do not send them away empty-handed. Supply them liberally (generously) from your flock, your threshing floor and your winepress. **Give to them as the LORD your God has blessed you.***

**A. Look for opportunities all-around you.**

**B. Go above and beyond.**

#### **4. Develop a Grateful Heart.**

**[Deuteronomy 15.15]**

***Remember that you were once slaves in the land of Egypt and the LORD your God redeemed you! That is why I am giving you this command.***

#### **DISCUSSION THOUGHTS**

- 1. How many of you have had any church background before coming to this church? What was your prior experience with teaching about giving? If you did not grow up going to church, what were some of the principles that you had, or were told, for giving?**
- 2. What are some biblical motivations for giving?**
- 3. How do you invest your treasure in eternity, while living here on earth?**
- 4. Why do we sometimes grieve when we give? How do we guard against that? What perspective do we need to keep?**
- 5. What is a "case of the minimums," when it comes to giving?**
- 6. How does remembering redemption help us to live with a grateful, and in turn, a generous heart?**