

EXPRESSING GOODNESS THROUGH GENEROSITY

FLOURISHING IN EXILE

Week 4 | June 28 Sermon

Community:

As you begin your GROUP time in community, would you begin with silence and listening? Practice listening well to each other and would you start your time by listening to the Holy Spirit? Grab a snack, check in on how everyone's week was, get out the normal "buzz" of coming together and then spend a moment centering yourselves in silence and listening for anything that the Lord might have for you as you engage in community. When you conclude your time of listening, model vulnerability by sharing what you heard and inviting your groupies to do the same.

You might consider starting your time of listening with a prayer of relinquishment like this one by Richard Foster:

Today, O Lord, I yield myself to you. May your will be my delight today. May your way have perfect sway in me. May your love be the pattern of my living. I surrender to you my hopes, my dreams, my ambitions. Do with them what you will, when you will, as you will. I place into your loving care my family, my friends, my future. Care for them with a care that I can never give. I release into your hands my need to control, my craving for status, my fear of obscurity. Eradicate the evil, purify the good, and establish your kingdom on earth. For Jesus' sake, Amen.

Sermon Discussion Questions:

Teacher: Tom Vander Well

In what ways can a human being hoard God's gifts (economic and spiritual)?

In what ways do we apply the concept of hard work, merit, and earning to our spirituality and image of God and God's Kingdom?

How does my acceptance of God's ownership of all that I am and all that I have change the way I think about life and possessions?

How can we practically bring God's Kingdom Economy (surrender, generosity, enough for everyone, a secure place to stand) to earth in our community?