



Episode VI – Avarice and Generosity

***{Start with reviewing the previous Meetings Challenge or discuss prior to sharing this week's challenge.}**

Let's Begin: Think about how the challenge went for the last session. What went well? What was difficult?

Opening Prayer:

Begin with a brief moment of silence shaking off any and all distractions or difficulties of the day and remembering that God is always with us.

Read: **Luke 16:19-31**

After the Reading Conclude with this prayer:

Heavenly Father, mold and shape our hearts to be generous like Yours. May we consider more frequently how we can give rather than who or what we can attain and get. Amen.

Video: Seven Deadly Sins, Seven Lively Virtues Video: Episode VI – Avarice and Generosity

Reflection or Discussion Questions:

1. Avarice is often thought of as a sin of the rich and, to be sure, many rich people are afflicted with this temptation. However, a poor person can also be obsessed with money (and with envy of the rich). Have you ever struggled with an inordinate desire for riches? How does our culture encourage the love of money? How can you overcome this temptation?
2. Had you ever considered before the Church's social teaching on wealth and private property? What do you think of the idea that private property is good but with that comes a responsibility for the common good (aka? generosity and sharing)?
3. Have you ever been the recipient of someone's deep generosity and sharing? What was that experience like for you?
4. Has there been a time when you felt called to offer something to someone very generously? What was that experience like for you?
5. When Bishop Barron shares various ideas of practical things you can do to live more generously did anything "tug" at you?

Session Challenges: {Choose one or both}

- Clean out your closet and give away something *you like* each month.
- Consider: When shopping for larger ticket items, find the one you want and can afford, and then buy the next one down (i.e., lower in price), and give the dollar difference to the poor.

Closing Prayer: (Leaders: We recommended offering time during the closing prayer for participants to offer personal intentions.)

Displaying the treasures of Your work, Jesus, You invited me to follow You, to sell my goods, to give to the poor, and to completely submit myself to You. Desires for wealth leads to greed, satisfaction never being reached. He who seeks no earthly possessions Is free of all avarice aspirations. Jesus, edify my weak human nature, to resist unnecessary commodities, those classified as evident luxury. May I subdue all greedy tendencies with the help of Your grace! Amen.

{Optional additional Readings}

Matthew 6:19-34; 1 Timothy 6:6-10; 2 Corinthians 8:1-15; CCC 1906-1909