

September 24, 2023

**Empowered:
Love Gifts: Giving and Mercy**

Scripture: Romans 12:1-8

Big Idea: The Love Gifts of Giving and Mercy practically evidence to the church and world the generosity and tenderness of God.

The Challenge: Generous people make manifest the kindness and abundance of God. Instead of hoarding resource, people with this gift re-present God to each other and to the world. The challenge is: do we really believe that God owns all things and that all that we have is His to begin with?

People who are given the gift of mercy show God's tenderness to the outcast and vulnerable. Christians are often known by our culture as angry and intolerant people. The challenge for the church is to show God's heart of mercy to all people.

Pastoral Prayer for this Message:

- KAC would understand these gifts and how they are defined.
- Those with these gifts would feel seen and encouraged to use them.
- KAC would be known as a generous place because of our generous people.
- KAC would be known as a place of kindness and tenderness to the needy and marginalized.

Questions for Discussion:

Introduction:

- Do you know your Spiritual Gift(s)?
 - If not, ask the group to give some insight to people who may not know.
 - If not, Pastor Chris proposed these steps:
 - Prayer
 - Look for passion – what gets your heart pumping?
 - Look for places of frustration – what makes you angry?
 - Ask others
 - Try them
 - Keep trying
 - Take a test – kac.ca/giftstest
 - Attend an Empower Night – Oct 23, Nov 20, Dec 11
 - Which one do you commit to trying to discover your gift?

Romans 12:1-2:

- What is the connection between God's mercy and the Spiritual Gifts? Why did Paul move from verses 1-2 right into a discussion on the gifts?

Romans 12:6

- What is the difference between a talent and a spiritual gift? In what ways do they align?

Romans 12:8

- Love Gift: Giving
 - What is this gift?
 - Do you know someone who has it? How do you know they have it?
 - Read 2 Corinthians 8:8-9 – What does this passage tell us about our financial stewardship?
 - What does it mean that “you can't outgive God?”
- Love Gift: Mercy
 - What is this gift?
 - How does this gift, properly expressed in the church, help the church be salt and light in our city?
 - Who in your life needs mercy?

Application:

1. Pick one of the Empower Nights this Fall as a group and commit to attending (Oct 23, Nov 20, Dec 11).
2. Go around the room and affirm people in their spiritual gifts.