



SANCTUARY REFLECTION GUIDE

March 22, 2026

Title: Are You Envious Because I Am Generous?

Preacher: Rev. Matt Tuggle

Scripture: Matthew 20:1-16

Generosity. This is something that can be controversial to think about. Generosity can easily give rise to jealousy and envy in the human heart instead of grace and gratitude. Something in our hearts leans more toward jealousy when we see or hear about other people's generosity, even if it is a generosity that we are a beneficiary of. We serve a God who is gracious and generous beyond comprehension. This generosity is on display in Jesus' parable in Matthew 20:1-16.

This parable reminds us that Jesus is all about bringing people into the work of God. There is always work to be done, and whether someone comes in at the first hour or the eleventh hour, God wants them there and will be generous with them in turn. And we're called, like God, to be generous with others in return, people who *receive* the blessings of God with an open hand and *share* the blessings of God with an open hand. We are called to be generous in the big moments of our lives and the smallest moments of our lives.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. What stuck out to you about this sermon? Was there an idea that was particularly meaningful or challenging for you?

2. Who has been exceedingly generous to you?
3. Why do you think God's generosity, as reflected in this parable, might be difficult for us to comprehend?
4. Why do you think the human heart is prone to envy instead of gratitude?
5. What does it look like to build an intentional rhythm of gratitude into our week?

WEEKLY PRACTICE

[Lent](#), the season between Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday, is traditionally a time for self-reflection and examination—for thinking. These 40 days are often marked by a commitment to fast from certain foods, abstain from particular habits, or adopt new spiritual practices, all with the desire to prepare our hearts for the coming of Easter and the promise of new life.

Week Five: No Negative Talk

Just as gratitude has the power to change how we see and perceive the world, so does engaging regularly in negative talk. This week, cut out all forms of negative talk—complaining, cursing, gossiping, and cutting remarks—both toward others and yourself. If you want to **take it a step further**, make a concerted effort each day this week to give one person a sincere, thoughtful compliment. In other words, choose to speak life into them, where you might normally use harmful or destructive words.

At the end of the week, reflect on your experience: *What did you learn about your own tendency toward negative talk? Did you notice a difference in your outlook and positivity by cutting negative talk out of your conversations and self-reflection?*