



LOVE GENEROUSLY

"God will not be outdone in generosity."
St Ignatius of Loyola



WHAT WOULD BE YOUR IDEA OF THE PERFECT DATE? WHAT WOULD BE INVOLVED?

WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER THE WORST DATE? CONSIDER ATTITUDE AS WELL AS LOCATION ETC.



WATCH THIS VIDEO FROM FR PATRICK CAHILL, "DO I LOVE JESUS GENEROUSLY OR WITH THE BARE MINIMUM?" AND REFLECT ON THE QUESTIONS THAT FOLLOW



How did Fr Patrick account for the differences in couple's reactions to receiving their meals in McDonalds? Why did the girls look so disappointed / annoyed?



What does God offer us a super-abundance of?



If we ever fall (sin), how does God treat us when we say "I'm sorry"?

Traditionally in Ireland, what phrase is never used when talking about faith?

"Love God _____"

What attitude is more prevalent? "Love God _____"

What two things does Fr Patrick suggest we can reduce practice of faith to in Ireland?



"Go _____"



"Don't _____."

What is missing from this kind of attitude or approach?

How does this minimalistic approach shape our way of viewing God? How do we act?

What do we not see God as with this attitude?

What question does Fr Patrick suggest we ask ourselves?

What kind of things can block us from loving God generously?
What kind of things can we blame him for?



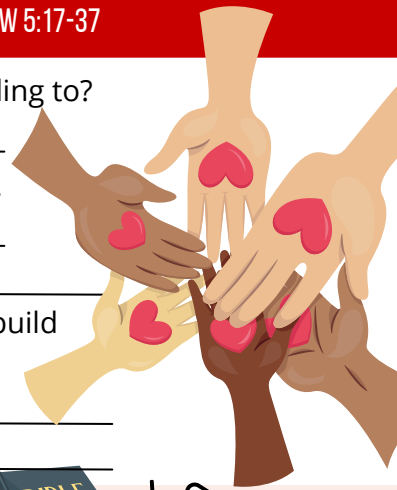
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MATTHEW 5:17-37

What is the basic reason we should love God generously? What are we responding to?

Does giving God more time always mean loving him more generously? Explain.

Do you think you've ever viewed God in a minimalist way rather than trying to build a relationship with Him?



Now Read Matthew 5:17-37



It's tempting to just do the bare minimum isn't it - whether it's chores at home, homework, assignments, even practicing our faith or saying our prayers.... It's tempting to reassure ourselves that we've done something, which is better than nothing, but deep down we know we're capable of more, and called to more too. Jesus understood this so well. He knew well what the Law represented for the Jewish people, and how many had limited themselves to a minimalistic interpretation, but missed the whole heart of the matter: a loving relationship with God. Jesus Himself came to fulfil the Law, to show us how to live and love generously - just think of the love He lavished on us by giving up His life on the cross! We can't ever match His generosity, but we should try to love generously because He first loved us generously. Only when we open our hearts up to Him and to others will we ever really grow and become the best versions of ourselves. Let's live the commandments in a more complete and fuller manner: let go of hate and anger, of bitterness and impatience, of lust and selfishness, of pride and greed. Let's strive daily to love God with our whole hearts and minds - and ask Him for the grace to do just that!

MISSION!

KEEP A WATCHFUL EYE ON YOUR HEART THIS WEEK. ANYTIME YOU FEEL A TEMPTATION TO ONLY DO THE MINIMUM IN SOMETHING YOU'RE CALLED TO AND CAPABLE OF GIVING MORE IN, PUSH YOURSELF TO LOVE AND GIVE MORE GENEROUSLY. ASKED TO LOAD THE DISHWASHER? WIPE DOWN THE COUNTER TOPS TOO! MAKE YOUR BED? TIDY THE WHOLE ROOM! HOOVER THE SITTING ROOM? DO THE BEDROOMS TOO! GIVE GENEROUSLY!



PRAYER TIME!

Jesus, thank you for your super abundant grace, love and mercy. Forgive me for any times I have settled for minimalism in my attitude to you or to others. Fill my heart with a generous and loving spirit, so it's not about rules and laws, but rather finding a real and true relationship with You!
Amen



CREATE A PLAYLIST TO LISTEN TO AS YOU REFLECT ON LOVING GENEROUSLY AS GOD LOVES

- Cody Carnes: Nothing Else
- Passion: My Heart is Yours
- Brian & Katie Torwalt: You Will, Your Way
- Cory Asbury: Reckless Love
- Matthew West: The Motions
- Vintage Worship: Generous Giver
- Amanda Cook: Pieces
- Hillsong: I Give You My Heart



2:11 MINS



Lifeteen: Yours are the Hands

Could you create a short video or sketch inspired by this reflection for your class / youth group?

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Youth & Young Adult Ministry
Diocese of Waterford & Lismore