



*The Journey*  
Week of 10.31.10

## **the beautiful fight: kingly purses**

by Sarah Leimer

I used to measure our "wealth" based on the numbers I saw in our bank account. I measure very differently today. I am writing this on the eve of the anniversary of the biggest explosion of generosity and true wealth into my life — *and it had almost nothing to do with money.*

My husband and I received some unexpected and devastating news that radically shifted our lives, and redefined everything we thought important or valuable. We suddenly had to learn to refocus our eyes and hearts in order to see what remained when it felt like so much was being taken.

Looking back, I can clearly see now, that while God was removing he was also rebuilding. By placing us on the receiving end of people's abundant generosity and kindness, he revealed to us the priceless value of our faith and community as well as his definition of true riches.

Through our experience, God entrusted us with other people's stories, friendships and resources. We know we were not the only ones dealing with difficult circumstances during this past year. We humbly acknowledge that the benefits we reaped were purely thanks to people giving generously to us, both through and in spite of their own personal and financial struggles. As a result we remain beyond grateful.

Speaking from experience, it is easy to get caught in the mindset of "it's not my problem" or "I don't know what to do" or "my efforts really won't make that big of a difference." However, as a recent beneficiary of so many people's generosity even when it was both financially and emotionally costly, I'm here to tell you it does make a difference — even the small things. While some people know our faces and our story, many do not. However, I know for certain that there are scores more like us out there — hurting, broken, sad, alone and afraid. There are many people with stories like ours, people with broken hearts searching for healing...people desperate for good news in the middle of their storms. I know we are not the only ones.

God entrusts us with our stories and reminds us that not only is all not lost, but by giving, serving and loving beyond what feels safe, we can be a part of how God shows up in the life of someone needing to be found. Our God specializes in ministering to the hurting and brokenhearted through the lives and hearts of his people. While he is fully capable of healing and working miracles on his own, he chooses to involve us in his work and the story he is telling. He longs for us to experience the risk of giving — of ourselves, our time, our talents and our treasure — more than we think is possible. He wants to give us the reward of receiving more than we believe we could ever possibly deserve. He is the giver of true riches, which are often radically different than what we see in our bank accounts, and of much greater value. He promises to bless us, only we must simply give in order to receive.

*"The real measure of our wealth is how much we should be worth if we lost our money."*

*~ J. H. Jowett*

(You are encouraged to use the SOAP – Scripture, Observation, Application and Prayer Method for a guide. Click [here](#) to read more about developing your devotional life. Click [here](#) for an example SOAP journal entry. If you don't own a Bible, pick up "The Story of God" Bible available for free at the Welcome Center in our atrium.)

## **monday, 11.01.10**

Read: [2 Corinthians 8:8-15, 1 Chronicles 28:1-10](#)

## **tuesday, 11.02.10**

Read: [1 Chronicles 28:11-21](#)

## **wednesday, 11.03.10**

Read: [1 Chronicles 29:1-5](#)

## **thursday, 11.04.10**

Read: [1 Chronicles 29:6-20, Luke 12:13-34](#)

## **friday, 11.05.10**

Read: [1 Chronicles 29:21-25, Luke 16:10-15](#)

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**grow** (resources to help you in your study)

- **Sunday's Sermon:** Click [here](#) for podcast, or here for [video](#)
- **book:** [The Treasure Principle](#) by Randy Alcorn
- **book:** [Generosity](#), a four-week devotional by Gordon MacDonald – available at The Beautiful Fight space as our gift to you

**go** (action steps)

- **prayer?** Please send us an email by clicking [here](#)
- **care?** Do you need to talk with someone? Please call us at 913.341.5820 ext. 330
- **go**—Sign up to serve: email Lisa Zulke by clicking [here](#)
- **grow**—Join a small group, a 1:1 spiritual mentorship, or find about the many other [ways to grow](#)
- **give**—click [here](#) to make an online gift to Heartland and learn how you can set up recurring gifts

Small Group/ 1:1 Question Samplers:

1. What fears and factors press against you when you think about living a generous life?
2. Identify five descriptions of a generous lifestyle in this week's scriptures. Which are evident in your life?
3. Spend time asking God to help you identify ways he could be calling you to be more giving of your time, your talents, your heart, your finances and of your stuff. After writing them down, spend time in prayer thanking God for all of the abundance he has given you. While talking with God, remember to ask Him for the courage to obey these nudges one step at a time and then put your obedience into action!