

Gleanings from the Pentateuch

Soft Hearts & Open Hands Deuteronomy 15

Heart of Generosity

A. Legislation

1. Sabbatical Year of Release

- every seventh year the land was "released" – it was not to be planted or harvested (Lev. 25)
- in addition, every debt between fellow-Israelites was canceled ("released")

Heart of Generosity

A. Legislation

2. Release of "Slaves"

- voluntary servitude was a legitimate means of paying off debt
- all such servants were to be set free after six years of service
- the "owner" was to generously supply for the needs of the one being set free

Heart of Generosity

B. The Heart

1. Heart Attitudes

- compassionate not condescending
- generous not self-serving
- cheerful not begrudging
- trusting not anxious

Heart of Generosity

B. The Heart

2. Heart Motivations

- The land and its wealth belonged to the Lord; all was a gift from Him (they "owned" nothing)
- They were once slaves and debtors whom the Lord graciously released

Heart of Generosity

1. Soft Hearts

A. Heart attitude toward possessions

- we are stewards not owners
- we are to be content, not accumulate
- we are to trust the Lord to supply our needs
- we are debtors to the Lord's mercy

Heart of Generosity

1. Soft Hearts

- B. Heart attitude toward the poor
- compassion – not conceit or contempt
 - generous – not stingy or begrudging

Heart of Generosity

2. Open Hands

- *generous giving to assist those in need, both inside and outside the church*
- give to our “Deacons Fund”
 - give to CAMA Services and the GCF
 - give to and support HPC
 - consider developing an orphan ministry, an adoption ministry, a widow ministry