



## REACHING OUR GENERATION (Out of Selfishness)

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In this lesson you will learn that the main cause of not reaching our generation is selfishness. You will learn the cause of selfishness and how to become selfless.

- I. Selfishness is the dominant trait that will characterize the end times.
  - A. 2 Timothy 3:1-5 – “But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: for men will be lovers of themselves...lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God having a form of godliness but denying its power” – vv. 1-2, 4-5.
  - B. Lovers of themselves means self-focused, self-centered, serving yourself, thinking about the big “I,” and consumed with your own desires.
  
- II. Signs of selfishness in the church.
  - A. Come to church with an attitude of, “What is in it for me? What can I get out of the service?”
  - B. Not asking how I can be of value and service. Becoming a taker and not a giver.
  - C. If not involved you can become critical of others in the church and maybe leave that church to find a church that will serve you.
  
- III. What Jesus said about giving of yourself.
  - A. Acts 20:35 – “It is more blessed to give than to receive.”
  - B. Luke 12:48 – “For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required...”
  - C. Matthew 10:8 – “Freely you have received, freely give.”
  - D. Luke 9:23-24 – “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.”
  - E. Illustration – The Sea of Galilee has water that flows in and out – a person who receives and then gives is like the Sea of Galilee. The Dead Sea has water only flowing into it – a person who only takes in and doesn’t give out is like the Dead Sea.
  
- IV. Other scriptures on being a giver.
  - A. 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 – As you have been comforted then comfort others.
  - B. Proverbs 11:24 – As you scatter you will increase more, but if you withhold it leads to poverty.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- When did you begin to move from selfishness to selflessness?
- Share how you are living out Acts 20:35 – “It is more blessed to give than to receive.”
- What area of ministry are you presently involved in?

### BE A DOER OF THE WORD

This week pray that the root of selfishness be cut out of your life and you will live a life of selflessness. Remember, love is not love until you give it away.

**SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE:** Acts 20:35 – “It is more blessed to give than to receive.”