

The Generous Life

(A deeper look at money)



Lesson 1: February 22nd & 23rd, 2014
The Generous life goes much deeper than money

Generosity is a grace that God wants us to grow in

2 Corinthians 8:6 So we urged Titus, since he had earlier made a beginning, to bring also to completion this act of grace on your part. *New International Version*

2 Corinthians 8:7 But just as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us—see that you **also excel** in this **grace of giving**. *New International Version*

Generosity is a sign of spiritual maturity

Proverbs 21:26 Some people are always greedy for more, but **the godly love to give!** *New Living Translation-SE*

“God sees our faith and finances as inseparable” *Randy Alcorn*

Money is one of the most talked about Bible subjects

16 out of 38 (42%) of the parables Jesus shared were about money

More is said about money in the New Testament than heaven and hell combined

There are **500 verses** in the Bible on prayer

There are fewer than **500 verses** in the Bible on faith
There are **2300 verses** in the Bible on money and possessions

Why God wants you to grow in your generosity

1. Generosity transfers our wealth from earth to heaven

“I have held many things in my hands and I have lost them all. But whatever I have placed in God’s hands, that I still possess.” *Martin Luther*

Luke 12:33 “Sell your possessions and give to those in need. This will **store up treasure for you in heaven!** And the purses of heaven never get old or develop holes. Your treasure will be safe; no thief can steal it and no moth can destroy it. *New Living Translation-SE*

2. Generosity increases our love for God’s Kingdom

Luke 12:33 “Sell your possessions and give to those in need. This will store up treasure for you in heaven! And the purses of heaven never get old or develop holes. Your treasure will be safe; no thief can steal it and no moth can destroy it. **34 Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.** *New Living Translation-SE*

“As surely as the compass needle follows north, your heart will follow your treasure” *Randy Alcorn*

3. Generosity gives God an opportunity to bless us

Proverbs 11:25 **The generous** will prosper; those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed. *New Living Translation-SE*

“God prospers me not to raise my standard of living, but to raise my standard of giving.” *Randy Alcorn*

Luke 6:38 Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full—pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, **running over, and poured into your lap.** The amount you give will determine the amount you get back.” *New Living Translation-SE*

4. Generosity brings us true happiness

Ecclesiastics 5:10 Those who love money will never have enough. **How meaningless** to think that wealth brings true happiness! *New Living Translation-SE*

Acts 20:35 In everything I’ve done, I have demonstrated to you how necessary it is to work on behalf of the weak and not exploit them. You’ll not likely go wrong here if you keep remembering that our Master said, **‘You’re far happier giving than getting.’** *New Living Translation-SE*

The less I spent on myself and the more I gave to others, the fuller of happiness and blessing did my soul become *Hudson Taylor*

Wealthy men on the subject of being rich

“The care of \$200 million is enough to kill anyone. There is no pleasure in it.” *W.H. Vanderbilt*

“I have made many millions, but they have brought me no happiness.” *John D. Rockefeller*

“Millionaires seldom smile.” *Andrew Carnegie*

“I was happier when doing a mechanic’s job.” *Henry Ford*