

GENEROSITY

WHY GOD WANTS US TO BE GENEROUS

TEACHING NOTES

What is God talking about when He calls us to be generous?

- Generosity starts in our heart and isn't just about finances: It's about our time, our talents, and our treasures.
- He is talking about matters of the heart, not matters of the hand.

How is God generous with us?

- "For God so loved the world, that He gave his only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16 (ESV)
- God is exceedingly and extravagantly generous with His grace, kindness, provision, and His gifts.
- Because we want to become like the God we worship, we need to realize that He wants us to be generous just like He is generous to us.

How can we be generous with all that we have?

- With our time:
 - We all get 24 hours each day on this planet. We can use it to sow generously into Kingdom things.
 - We can mentor others with our time; investing our time and talents into others' lives for the gospel.
- With our talents:
 - No matter your design and how you're gifted (i.e. - organizational, administrative, creative, etc.), God has given you talents and gifts.
 - If you use those talents for only earthly things, your reward will only be in the earthly realm; temporal.
- With our treasures:
 - When we work, we get a paycheck. We exchange our time at our job(s) for a paycheck where we can buy items, most of which are temporal in nature.
 - We can use our finances generously by giving into Kingdom-building endeavors around the world (i.e. - help preach the gospel around the world, building up the local church, caring for the poor/overlooked/marginalized in our communities).
 - When we choose to be like God and invest our time, talent & treasure into things that are eternal (i.e. - people, kingdom-building aspects, endeavors, etc.) we're taking things that are temporal, translating them, and exchanging the currency of this world for eternal currency and reward.
 - Jesus said it like this: "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal." Matthew 6:19 (NASB)

There is a reward awaiting us in the age to come as a result of how we invest our time, talents, and treasures into our world now.

What does the Bible say about generosity?

- “The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” 2 Corinthians 9:6-7 (ESV)

- How can we give cheerfully? We know it’s bringing joy to the heart of God, impacting the lives of others, going into our future as a harvest on top of our heavenly reward.

- Jesus said, “No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.” Matthew 6:24 (NIV)

- You can’t serve both God & money--you’ll hate one and love the other.

- Jesus said you can’t have two masters.

- The only thing that Jesus placed on the same scale of God as our master was money as our master.

- Money is a tool that if we have enough of, we can do just about anything.

- Money also gets into our heart & soul, and convinces us we don’t need God.

- Money represents control.

Why does God ask us to give?

1. It changes other people’s lives.

2. It changes our lives: We realize God is in control and we become stewards of what He has put into our lives. You are a steward; a manager. God has entrusted you with talents, time, resources, and money.

What are you going to with what God has entrusted to you?

- Are you going to sow it into good soil to bring a Kingdom harvest?

- Are you going to invest it into the things of this world and let it be depleted of its eternal impact?

Your Challenge: submit these things God has given to you under the lordship of Jesus and watch that as you sow, you will continuously reap the goodness, favor, blessing, and increase from God Himself.

MAKE IT YOUR OWN

Definition of Generosity: The act of being very kind, generous, or open-handed.

How has God been generous with me? Read: John 3:16, and 1 John 3:16-18.

Why does God want me to be generous? Read: Matthew 6:21, Matthew 6:24, Matthew 10:8, Proverbs 3:9-10, Proverbs 11:24-25, Malachi 3:10-12, and 2 Corinthians 9:10-15.

What are the 3 areas I can be generous in? Read: Ephesians 5:15-16, 1 Peter 4:10, Exodus 35:10, Ephesians 2:10, Hebrews 13:16, 2 Corinthians 9:6-7, and Psalm 24:1.

How does God want me to give? Read: 2 Corinthians 9:6-8.

Prayer:

Lord, thank you for Your extreme generosity with me. Thank You for loving me so much that You gave Your son, Jesus, to purchase my freedom. Help me reach new degrees of generosity in my life as I use the gifts and resources You gave me to bring an eternal Kingdom impact. Thank you for the opportunity to partner with Your cause in this world. In Jesus' name, Amen.

What's Next?

- 1.** Consider joining a serving team at your church and give of your time & talents. This will give you an opportunity to grow in your giftings, but also create space for the message of Jesus to reach others. Join Team Radiant here: www.radiant.church/teamradiant
- 2.** Begin financially partnering with your church so you can use your treasures to bring a lasting eternal impact. You may not feel that your gift alone can make a difference, but joining your gifts with others' gifts can change the world. See opportunities for local and global missions here: www.radiant.church/kingdombuilders