



# Grace Fellowship of Morehead, KY

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## **GENEROSITY** *A KEY TO OPERATING IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD*

*Message Preached on Sunday Morning, May 12, 2024*

My desire, and the desire of all our pastors, is NOT to get anything FROM you.

I would imagine sometimes it seems that way.

**HOWEVER:** Our desire is to get you tapped into God's best for your life. Enjoying God's best.

The enemy attempts to move us away from God's best, by doing things his way...which is actually your own way.

Mark 10:17-22 (Rich Young Ruler)

- 17 And when he was gone forth into the way, there came one running, and kneeled to him, and asked him, Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?
- 18 And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God.
- 19 Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Defraud not, Honour thy father and mother.
- 20 And he answered and said unto him, Master, all these have I observed from my youth.
- 21 Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me.
- 22 And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions.

### **I want you to notice a couple things in this account:**

- 1.) He was a good person. He had done everything that he knew to do and it wasn't allowing him to live like Jesus.  
He knew there had to be more.  
**NOTE:** Those who are wealthy...know there has to be more...therefore, they are always wanting MORE.
- 2.) He was lacking something. Vs. 21  
This passage has been misunderstood for centuries...this is about being rich. NO!  
Vs. 30 – “But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life.”  
Jesus makes it very clear that wealth ISN'T the issue! Jesus was NOT asking him to do WITH OUT anything!  
**QUESTION:** What was he lacking?  
**ANSWER:** Generosity!  
**BELOVED:** I know we will say that faith is a key to the kingdom...love is a key to the kingdom... etc.

One of the GREATEST KEYS to the Kingdom of God is GENEROSITY!

I know that this is often overlooked...because it has to do with money...so many pastors ignore it...and even prosperity pastors can dance around it.

**HOWEVER:** I would like to say that it is more than JUST money (though money is a major part of it...but also your time).

***When you learn generosity...you OPEN up the KINGDOM of Heaven to yourself in a way you couldn't otherwise.***

Mark 12:41-44 (the widow)

- 41 And Jesus sat over against the treasury, and ***beheld how the people*** cast money into the treasury: and ***many that were rich cast in much.***  
***“Much”*** – many, plenteous, abundant
- 42 And there came a certain poor widow, and she threw in two mites, which make a farthing.
- 43 And he called unto him his disciples, and saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That this poor widow hath cast more in, than all they which have cast into the treasury:
- 44 ***For all they did cast in of their abundance; but she of her want did cast in all that she had, even all her living.***

I love that Jesus didn't really look at what (per se) but at HOW they gave.

**IN OTHER WORDS:** Generosity isn't about (per se) how much you give...but how you give.

**What are the keys to HOW you give?**

- 1.) That you give.  
 A desire to give.  
 I know that may seem weird...but you can't say, "I am generous, but I just don't have anything to give."
- 2.) You give willingly.  
Isaiah 1:19 – "If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land:"
- 3.) You give bountifully.  
 Bountifully is a different level for everyone.  
 I have heard it said your offering isn't based on what you give, but on what you have left over.  
 Well, that isn't really fair...because if a person who has twenty gives twenty...for a person who has worked in life to have a savings account of, let's say a \$100,000, to match that gift would be \$100,000.  
**BELOVED:** It is about generosity. It will simply take more for a person with a big bank account to actually be generous.  
 You may also say, "When I have more money...I will be generous." Well, don't forget that when you have more, it will take more to be generous.

Luke 12:16-21 (Greedy Farmer)

- 16 And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully:
- 17 And he thought within himself, saying, ***What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits?***
- 18 And he said, ***This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods.***
- 19 And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry.
- 20 But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?
- 21 So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.

Vs. 17 – He asked a beautiful question. The right questions.

Vs. 18 – He came to the wrong conclusion

Often, we ask the same question...with a similar answer.

What do I do with my paycheck...with the mentality of...

- \* What bills of mine do I pay?
- \* What extra stuff do I have to do this week?
- \* What do I want to do with it.

**BELOVED:** Your mentality should always be to please God with your seed.

**UNDERSTAND:** God wants you to pay your bills...that isn't an issue...but if God were to say that you honor someone else first, it isn't because He wants you to go into collections.

**MARK HANKINS:** "God isn't opposed to you having Mercedes living, as long as you don't have skate board giving."

Ecclesiastes 5:10 (NASB) – "One who loves money will not be satisfied with money, nor one who loves abundance with its income. This too is futility."

A person who is NOT generous is ONLY thinking about their kingdom...their corner...not others.

2 Corinthians 9:6-8,10

6 But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which **soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.**

7 Every man **according as he purposeth in his heart**, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for **God loveth a cheerful giver.**

8 And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:

10 Now he that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness;)

**AGAIN:** A portion of Scripture showing generosity. Here it is called bountiful giving.

**IMPORTANT POINT:** Many people point this Scripture out as the definition of New Testament giving... instead of tithing. Tithing is NOT giving...it is an entry point...it is where you start.

**IN OTHER WORDS:** A tenth is not generous...what you do above that tenth is where your generosity starts.

### Another list of how we are to give...how to give generously:

1.) **"Bountifully"** – generously (AMP)

2.) **"Purposed"** – a willing choice

**AGAIN:** Being willing is a key to generosity. It drives you...it is important to you...it is a priority to you.

3.) **"Cheerful"** – it makes you happy

I love that joy is associated with a gift that brings forth a bountiful harvest.

How much JOY do you get out of giving? Giving gifts or offerings?

**MARK HANKINS:** "Your savings cannot take you where your sowing can. All grace abounds towards the generous (vs. 8)."

**ONE MORE POINT:** When you are a generous person...God will make sure you have more to give.

### Think about it:

- \* If God calls you to sing...He is going to make sure you have a nice voice.
- \* If He calls you to preach...He is going to make sure you can speak.
- \* If He calls you to do anything...He will make sure that ability is in you.

**HOWEVER:** It doesn't mean it comes natural...it means you have to work at it to develop it.

**ILLUSTRATION:** Steve and the guitar. Do we think God called him to that guitar? Yes! Did he work on developing it? Yes!

**BELOVED:** God has called you to be generous...so if you GIVE and develop it...God will make sure you have the ability to do it.

**MARK HANKINS:** "When you become a partner with God, it is to His advantage to prosper you."

1 Timothy 6:9-10

- 9 But they that **will be rich fall into temptation and a snare**, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.
- 10 For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

“**Will be rich**” – a desire to be rich, it is all they think about

**REMEMBER** the greedy farmer?

Vs. 9 (**PASSION**) – “But those who crave the wealth of this world slip into spiritual snares. They become trapped by the troubles that come through their foolish and harmful desires, driven by greed and drowning in their own sinful pleasures. And they take others down with them into their corruption and eventual destruction.”

We need to crave giving...generosity.

1 Timothy 6:17-19

- 17 Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;
- 18 That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate;
- 19 Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.

**FOLKS:** Lookie here...another list of how to be generous!

- 1.) Money is NOT the answer...God is! Money is Not the Source...God is!
- 2.) Don't be high minded – me first...I know better
- 3.) Be rich in good works – blessing others
- 4.) Ready to distribute – (AMP) – Liberal and generous of heart
- 5.) WILLING! (AMP) – Ready to share.
- 6.) Don't lay up in a bank...what can be laid up in others (the Kingdom).

2 Corinthians 11:7-9

- 7 Have I committed an offence in abasing myself that ye might be exalted, because I have preached to you the gospel of God freely?
- 8 I robbed other churches, taking wages of them, to do you service.
- 9 And when I was present with you, and wanted, I was chargeable to no man: for that which was lacking to me the brethren which came from Macedonia supplied: and in all things I have kept myself from being burdensome unto you, and so will I keep myself.

**NOTICE:** The church at Corinth wasn't giving! You say, well Paul didn't teach them...

They didn't even think about it.

It didn't even dawn on them that Paul had bills to pay.

They allowed other churches (the Philippian church) to give to Paul and just enjoyed Paul's ministry to them.

2 Corinthians 8:1-3

- 1 Moreover, brethren, **we do you to wit of the grace of God bestowed** on the churches of Macedonia;
- 2 How that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality.
- 3 For to their power, I bear record, yea, and **beyond their power they** were willing of themselves;

**The generosity of the church at Philippi:**

- 1.) They were willing to give. Vs. 3
- 2.) They were not rich AT ALL when they started.
- 3.) They gave joyfully. Vs. 2
- 4.) God made sure they had the money to be generous.

**NOW:** Let me ask you a question...out of the churches listed in the New Testament...which one had the most problems?

The church at Corinth.

**WHY?** They were not generous!

Their first letter was correction after correction...

The Philippian church? Insight after insight.

## **Conclusion**

**BELOVED:** Be generous and God will give you more!