



Grace Fellowship of Morehead, KY

905 Clearfield Street * Morehead, KY 40351 * (606)776-7089 * www.gracemorehead.org

GENEROSITY

A KEY TO OPERATING IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Part 2

Message Preached on Sunday Morning, May 19, 2024

LAST WEEK: We began a short series on an essential subject in the Kingdom of God. We can have a great understanding of a lot of things, as Christians, but if you are missing this key quality...you will miss it.

Generosity!

“Generosity” – the quality of being kind and passionate, of being plentiful or large.

Proverbs 11:24 – “There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth; and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty.”

(NLT) – “Give freely and become more wealthy; be stingy and lose everything.”

This is one of my favorite verses in the Bible...because it defines the generous heart and the stingy heart.

NOTE: The stingy heart isn't one that has a savings account...but one that withholds more than is meet... or more than is right. See parable of the farmer.

VERY ESSENTIAL: Generosity isn't ALL about money. It is about the heart!

If you are generous...it will be in all areas of life.

NOTE: The Bible uses money pretty much all of the time when dealing with a heart of generosity...but it also says thing like,

Ecclesiastes 9:10 – “Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.”

Here are some ways that you can be generous:

- 1.) Money.
This can be to the church, or to friends (eating out, gifts), strangers (grocery, etc.)...
- 2.) Giving stuff.
When you are ready to get rid of something, is your first thought, what can we get out of this? Or who needs this?
- 3.) Your time helping others, volunteers, doing favors...
- 4.) Kind words and compliments.
NOTE: They are free...how liberal are you with them?
- 5.) Your gifts and callings!
BELOVED: God did not give you your gifts, callings and talents for you to just make a living.
 - * I can sing, so I am going to go professional and make money.
 - * I can speak, so I am going to be a pastor and make a living.
 - * I understand computers, so I will get a profession in IT and make money.

God gives you those interests and talents and gifts to love on others (along with making a living)... but if you are not using those gifts to bless others, you are ALWAYS going to feel unfulfilled.

People can be doing the right thing in life...for the wrong reason...and still feel empty and frustrated.

All the excuses people use to NOT use their gifts and callings...it comes down to ignoring the voice inside you and disobeying God.

LAST WEEK we went through several accounts in Scripture (most of them Jesus talked about) and we learned key elements of generosity.

- 1.) You have to actually give...be active...not just want to.
I know many of think that just because they would like to give...gives them a generous heart (and you know that God looks at the heart)...but that is nothing more than faith without works.
You either sow bountifully or you don't.

HOLY SPIRIT spoke this to me this week.

Those times that you hear that voice...that desire...inside of you to be generous, to give to someone, to do something for someone...and you talk yourself out of it...you know, at the grocery store, etc.

That is actually the voice of the spirit that you are not tuned into leading you to be generous...you are disobeying!

Those excuses for NOT doing it...are from the pit of hell to get you to disobey the voice of the spirit.

It isn't enough to just think about giving...you **MUST** give.

REMEMBER: Generosity isn't about HOW MUCH, but that you give.

- 2.) Willing to give and purpose to give...not under coercion.
- 3.) Bountifully.
Even though the amount isn't AS important...it is still important.
REMEMBER: The woman with the two mites didn't give a fraction...she gave all.
- 4.) Cheerful and joyful giving!
Happy to do it.
If giving and doing things for others ruins your day...even though you may have given or done a big thing...it did NOT come from a generous heart.
- 5.) Focus is on blessing others, not on ME.
- 6.) God is your Source, not people who may see you.
You are not doing it for publicity.
- 7.) You are **READY** to give, quick with the trigger.
QUOTE: You are ready to give at a drop of a hat...and you usually drop the hat.
- 8.) It doesn't matter what you have...generosity drives you.

2 Corinthians 9:8,10

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:

(AMP) – “And God is able to make all grace (every favor and earthly blessing) come to you in abundance, so that you may always and under all circumstances and whatever the need be self-sufficient [possessing enough to require no aid or support and furnished in abundance for every good work and charitable donation].”

NOTE: If you are generous...God will make sure you have **MORE THAN ENOUGH** of what you are generous with, so that you can keep doing it...plus having **MORE THAN ENOUGH** for yourself.

2 Corinthians 9:10

- 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;
- He supplies your food (the stuff the Gentiles seek after).
 - He makes sure you have more seed.
 - He sharpens your spiritual life.

Stingy Eyes = Evil EyeMatthew 6:19-24

- 19 Lay not up for ***yourselves treasures*** upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:
- 20 But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:
- 21 ***For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.***
QUESTION: Why does God want you to be generous?
ANSWER: Love!
- 22 The light of the body is the eye: ***if therefore thine eye be single***, thy whole body shall be full of light.
NOTICE: This is talking about how you see things? What lens you look at the world through...and it gives two lenses.
FIRST LENS: A single eye...bountiful eye.
 An old definition of "single" gives better insight.
DEFINED: Pure; simple; incorrupt; unbiased; having clear vision of divine truth.
 This still may be a bit murky until you remember the context...talking about money and where your treasure is...and when you contrast it with the next verse...
- 23 But if ***thine eye be evil***, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!
- 24 No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.
NOTE: This phrase is used in Matthew...he is talking to the Jewish people.
 It is a phrase that was common among the Jewish people...and it meant stingy.
SECOND LENS: An evil eye.

Matthew 20 – Jesus is talking about those who were hired early in the day and given a wage, then at noon he hired some more and gave them the same wage, and some were hired towards the end of the day and are paid the same wage.

Obviously the people that were hired at the beginning of the day complained.

Jesus' reply? Vs. 15 – "Is your eye evil because I am good?" The master was generous...they were being stingy.

Mark 7:22 tells us that an EVIL EYE (stingy) flows from your heart.

Proverbs 28:22 – "He that hasteth to be rich hath an ***evil eye***, and considereth not that poverty shall come upon him."

(NLT) – "Greedy people try to get rich quick but don't realize they're headed for poverty."

Proverbs 22:9 – "He that hath a bountiful eye shall be blessed [empowered to prosper]; for he giveth of his bread to the poor."

(NLT) – "Blessed are those who are generous, because they feed the poor."

BELOVED: How do you view things in your life? It will make the difference between the poverty that is coming on you or the blessings that is coming on you.

***A generous eye (heart) results in a generous hand
results in a blessed life.***

How to Grow in Generosity

1.) Generosity flows from a relationship with God through Jesus.

2 Corinthians 3:18 – “But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.”

The more we behold Him...the more we are like Him.

You absolutely cannot spend time with God and become stingy.

John 3:16 – “For God so loved...that He gave.”

What did He give? His best...and all of His best.

2 Peter 1:3 – “He gave us all things that pertain to life and godliness.”

Jesus, on this earth was generous.

John 13:29 – He had a reputation of giving to the poor AND taking care of His disciples and those closest to Him.

Acts 10:38 – He went around DOING GOOD (philanthropy).

There was NO stingy in God or Jesus.

2.) View yourself as a steward.

Matthew 25:14-30

UNDERSTAND: Each of these servants have been given the talents (money)...but they all understood the Master was coming back.

They all understood it was HIS money.

So they used it FOR HIM...not for themselves.

The first two servants had been generous...and increased...and were rewarded.

The last servant was stingy and buried it...and was condemned.

1 Corinthians 4:2 – “Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.”

Proverbs 28:20 – “A faithful man shall abound with blessings: but he that maketh haste to be rich shall not be innocent.”

3.) The Word is Truth.

John 17:17 – “Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.”

So even though it may not seem to make sense in the natural...if the Word says that stinginess leads to poverty...then beloved, it will lead to poverty.

If the Word tells us that scattering leads to prosperity and blessings...then that settles it.

4.) No Fear.

Our greatest deterrent to generosity may not be greed, but fear!

Every desire to be generous will probably have a corresponding impulse of fear. What if it doesn't work!

Of course, that means our faith is not where we need it to be.

One of my favorite portions of Scripture is Joshua 1:6-9...loaded with good stuff, but the final statement in verse 9 that is a key to moving into the Promised Land is...

Joshua 1:9 – “Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.”

Be obstinate and hard-headed...don't let the enemy build that nest in your hair...DON'T FEAR, God is with you!

THUS: Refer to point 1 and 3.

Conclusion/Practical Application

PRIORITY Giving – Giving of your money, time and gifts.

Beginning of the month...budget...give to the Lord first.

PERCENTAGE Giving – This is a “P” way to say the tenth. Your tithe. This is the starting point of being generous. You can’t start being generous if you are a thief.

PROGRESSIVE Giving – What you used to give, may not be generous any more. Continue to increase.

PROMPTED Giving – Be sensitive to the Lord at all times...over and above your regular giving.

BILLY GRAHAM – “God has given us two hands – one to receive with and the other to give with. We are not cisterns for hoarding; we are channels made for sharing. If we fail to fulfill this divine duty and privilege, we have missed the meaning of Christianity.”