

## Generous: What Happen When You Give

### Part One: Generosity Looks Like Jesus

We are a Jesus loving, Jesus following people of God. We are called to love Jesus, live for Jesus and to be like Jesus.

According to the scriptures we were made in the image of God. We were made to resemble God.

God loves Generous Hearts: 2 Corinthians 9:7 "... God loves a cheerful giver"

God loves a cheerful giver because He sees his own character reflected in that generous servant

God is Love, so We Love

God is Kind, so We show Kindness

God Gives, so We are Called to be Generous

A Cheerfully Generous Heart resembles the heart of God's which was manifested to us in Jesus!

This Month we are going to talk about: What Happens when You Give.

### The Generosity of Jesus

#### 1) Jesus taught generosity

##### a) Jesus taught radical generosity (Matthew 5:40-42)

i) v.40 "if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well."

ii) v.41 "And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles".

(1) In Roman-occupied territory any Roman soldier could require a Jewish person to carry his equipment, cloak, or other burdens for one mile. It was the law!

iii) Jesus makes it plain v.42 Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you.

##### b) Jesus connected generosity with righteousness.

Matthew 6:1-4 "Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven. **2** "Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. **3**

But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, **4** so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

The phrase “acts of righteousness” can be translated different ways, but it means “to do what is right in God’s eyes from a sincere heart”

There are three acts of righteousness taught by Jesus in this passage: Giving – Prayer – Fasting. Notice the first one is Giving!

- i) Giving to a need is the right thing to do in God’s eyes. It’s the fruit of righteousness!
  - ii) Giving with the right heart and for the right purpose is the right thing to do in God’s eyes.
- c) Jesus taught us not to be envious when others are blessed through God’s radical generosity.

Matthew 20:1-16 A landowner went early in the morning to the day laborers corner and he offered a denarius to each who would work a day (12 hours) in his vineyard... they agreed.

v. 15 NAS ‘Is it not lawful for me to do what I wish with what is my own? Or is your eye envious because I am generous? O GUYS WATCH OUT FOR THAT ENVIOUS EYE! looking for...

Don’t be envious: **Our God is generous to the undeserving.** get used to it!

- i) What happens in your heart when others are blessed? When the undeserving are blessed?
- ii) The best way to conquer envy is to develop a generous heart!

Wiston Churchill once said, WE MAKE A LIVING BY WHAT WE GET. WE MAKE A LIFE BY WHAT WE GIVE

## 2) Jesus Demonstrated Generosity.

- a) His generosity was seen in His heroic coming.

2 Corinthians 8:9 NLT You know the generous grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty he could make you rich.

- b) His generosity was seen in His life

- i) Jesus was generous with His time.

(1) We must learn something from the life of Jesus.

- (a) The children didn't bother him
- (b) The needy did not bother him
- (c) The sinful people didn't bother him.

ii) Jesus was generous with His anointing.

(1) The miracles:

- (a) Crippled men were healed
- (b) Lepers were delivered from their disease.
- (c) Dead children were brought back to life.
- (d) Sinful women were delivered from their shame.
- (e) Demonized mad men were set free and restored.

(2) We have all received anointed gifts from the Spirit.

*God wants to use what we have to work miracles!*

(a) Natural talents.

(b) Spiritual gifts.

(i) 1 Corinthians 12:1 "Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be uninformed."

(ii) v.4 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit.

(iii) v. 7 NLT A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other.

iii) Jesus was generous with His love.

John 13:1 Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

c) His generosity was seen in His practical ways. when people were hungry He fed them!

Mark 8:14-20 Now they had forgotten to bring bread, and they had only one loaf with them in the boat. **16** And they began discussing with one another the fact that they had no bread. **17** And Jesus, aware of this, said to them, "Why are you discussing the fact that you have no bread? Do you not yet perceive or understand? Are your hearts hardened? **18** Having eyes do you not see, and having ears do you not hear? And do you not remember? **19** When I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many baskets full of broken pieces did you take up?" They said to him, "Twelve." **20** "And the seven for the four thousand, how many baskets full of

broken pieces did you take up?" And they said to him, "Seven." **21** And he said to them, "Do you not yet understand?"

i) Very Important questions:

(1) Do you remember how many baskets were left over?

(2) Do you understand?

ii) Memory and understanding go together in discerning spiritual truth.

(1) Here is the message:

(a) A little is a lot when you put in the hands of Jesus!

(b) When you give from a generous heart He is able to multiply it so that it blesses others.

(c) Don't forget to your blessing on the river bank!

3) Jesus promised a return would come to those who are generous.

Luke 6:37-28 "Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven; **38** give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you."

This is What Happens When You Give

1) You resemble the One who gave His Son.

2) You demonstrate the righteousness of a redeemed heart.

3) You become a resource for the hungry.

4) You find provision for your own needs