

Absurdity of Generosity

God Loves a Cheerful Giver

God loves a cheerful giver (2 Corinthians 9:6-7). God loves a cheerful giver, not because He has a need, but because we do. He loves a cheerful giver because the act of generosity is a *declaration* that God alone is our source of security. Generosity is a declaration that our worth is not found in how much we have but in what our Heavenly Father paid through the death and resurrection of Jesus. When we are generous (and growing in our generosity), it means we are embracing truths that lead to life, deep joy, and all the *true riches* God has to offer.

GETTING STARTED

In the New Testament, 16 out of 38 parables of Jesus deal with money. The New Testament addresses the subject of money more than heaven and hell combined. And Scripture talks about money five times more than what is said on prayer. Why do you think money is addressed so much in Scripture? Why is our perspective and heart attitude towards money so intricately connected to our relationship with Jesus and our overall spiritual maturity?

GO DEEPER

1. According to 2 Corinthians 9:6-7, how should we give, and why does this matter?
2. What does Psalm 50:9-12 tell us about the *needs* of God, and why then is our generosity so important to Him (i.e. Matthew 6:21)?
3. Acts 20:35 states that it is more blessed to give than to receive. What is the blessing that comes when we live generously and are growing in our generosity?

MAKE IT PERSONAL

1. Jesus makes it clear in Matthew 6:21 that our heart follows our money. If you were honest, how do you spend your money and what does it reveal about your heart? What do you find security and worth in?
2. How would you rate your generosity right now? What is one step God might be calling you into in this season to grow in living generously?
3. How have you experienced joy and blessing in being the recipient of someone else's generosity, and in being generous towards someone in need?

PRACTICE IT NOW

Take some time as a group to ask God for ways that you can be more open-handed with your money. Ask Him to make you a cheerful giver in an ever-increasing way. Ask God to help you find security and worth in Him and what He has accomplished for you, so that you are less tied to material possessions and wealth.

PODCAST

As an additional source of encouragement and insight, check out our weekly podcast, *Beyond Sundays*, at anchor.fm/beyondsundays.