



Sermon Notes

April 6, 2008
Tim Strickland

Proverbs 11:24-25

One gives freely, yet grows all the richer;
another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want.
[25] Whoever brings blessing will be enriched,
and one who waters will himself be watered.

Proverbs 19:17

Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord,
and he will repay him for his deed.

Proverbs 28:22

A stingy man hastens after wealth
and does not know that poverty will come upon him.

2 Cor. 8:1-2 We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, [2] for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part.

2 Cor. 9:10-11 He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. [11] You will be enriched in every way for all your generosity, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God.

1 Tim. 6:17-19 As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. [18] They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, [19] thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.

Introduction

Today: **"Generosity"**, Message #9 in "Where Your Treasure Is", a series about God, money & you

Where Your Treasure Is... #9
Generosity
Various Passages

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Where Your Treasure Is... #9
Generosity
Various Passages

1. God commands us to be generous...

- a. Towards God
 - The Parable of the Rich Fool – Luke 12:13-21
Luke 12:21 *So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God."*
- b. Towards the Poor
 - **Proverbs 19:17**
Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed.
- c. Towards Everyone
 - **Psalm 37:26** ('He' = 'the righteous')
He is ever lending generously, and his children become a blessing.
 - **Luke 6:35** (KJV) *"do good, and lend, hoping for nothing..."*
- d. God especially commands "the rich in this present age" to be generous
 - **1 Timothy 6:17-19** ¹⁷*As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. ¹⁸They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, ¹⁹thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.*

2. Generosity reflects the character of God

- a. God generously gives us His wisdom
 - **James 1:5** *If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.*
- b. God generously gives us His mercy
 - **Ephesians 2:4-7** *But God, being rich in mercy...*
- c. God generously gives us His forgiveness
 - **Matthew 18:21-35** – The parable of the unforgiving servant
- d. God generously gives us His salvation
 - **Ephesians 2:8** For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,
 - See also Rev. 21:6, Isaiah 55:1

3. Generosity leads to wealth, but stinginess leads to poverty

a. Generous people tend to increase in wealth, while stingy people tend to increase in poverty

• **Prov. 11:24-25** *One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want. [25] Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered.*

• **2 Cor. 9:6** *The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.*

b. Generous people tend to increase in friends

• **Proverbs 19:6** *Many seek the favor of a generous man, and everyone is a friend to a man who gives gifts.*

c. Generous people will tend to receive help when they are in need

• **Prov. 21:13** *Whoever closes his ear to the cry of the poor will himself call out and not be answered.*

d. Generous people will reap eternal rewards

• **Matthew 6:20** *but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.*

4. Are you a generous person?

a. Opportunities for generosity

• Sharing your resources

- home
- transportation
- godly wisdom
- clothing
- many other things
- food
- hospitality
- time
- money

• Erring on the side of generosity

- tipping
- patience with those who do not pay quickly
- many other opportunities
- quick payment

Our Response

1. Ask the Lord to transform you into a more generous person.

2. Think of ways you can be generous with the resources which God has entrusted to you.

Proverbs 19:17

Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed.

2 Cor. 9:10-11 *He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. [11] You will be enriched in every way for all your generosity, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God.*

Questions for Application

1. Describe a time when someone was very generous to you. What was memorable about their act of generosity?
2. Describe some ways in which God shows us His generosity.
3. What are the material blessings that come as a result of generosity? Describe how material poverty comes as a result of stinginess.
4. Discuss ways you can be more generous.
5. Pray together for one another that the Lord would work in our hearts to make us generous people. Pray that we would be known as a generous church.

Questions, Comments? - inthebeginning@look.ca

If you have questions or comments about today's message, please drop me an email to the address above. Thanks,

Tim

