



Spiritual Disciplines: Generosity

Psalm Prov 11:24-25; Matt 6:19-21, 24; 2 Cor 9:6-8

[based on the sermon preached on 05-03.23 – available on the [church app](#) or at <https://lwac.org.au/sermons>]

KEY IDEAS

1. Being generous honors and blesses God.
2. Generosity changes me.
3. God blesses and provides for those who are generous.
4. God desires us to give cheerfully and willingly.

CONNECT

- Think of someone you know who you consider to be a generous person. What is it about them which makes you conclude that they are generous? In what ways have you seen or experienced their generosity? Share about this as you are able.

STUDY

Read Proverbs 11:24-25

- These two verses emphasize the principle of reciprocity, that the measure you use will be used with you. If you give freely, you will gain; if you are generous, you will prosper; if you refresh others, you will be refreshed. But this principle works in the other direction as well; if you withhold or are not generous, you will come to poverty.
- Have you ever witnessed this principle in practice, in either your own life or the life of someone you know? What was this like?

- Though this is a general truth, sometimes it seems, for a while, the righteous (and generous) suffer while the evil (and stingy) grow rich. Have you ever witnessed this? How would you explain this to a non-Christian friend who asked about it, especially in light of Proverbs 11?

Read Matt 6:19-21, 24

- Our modern banking system means moths and rust and vermin are less likely to destroy our wealth than in Jesus' day when cloth could rot, leather could mildew and coins could rust, and all of them could be stolen. What is the contemporary equivalent of losing treasures stored on earth? How can we lose our money and earthly treasures and possessions today?
- What is it about heaven which makes storing our treasures there theft-proof and such a secure investment?
- Notice that when Jesus said "where your treasure is, there your heart will be also," he is telling us our heart *follows* our treasure: treasure leads, heart follows. We often think this should be reversed, heart first and leading with treasure following our heart. But Jesus says no, it is the other way around. What does Jesus mean by this treasure first, heart following principle? How do you explain this? What are the implications for our finances and our generosity?
- In v. 24 Jesus is painting a fairly strong contrast between God and money (or mammon, meaning material possessions): you can't serve both, only one. Why can't you serve both? What is it about both God and money which prevents us from serving both of them equally?
- What does serving money look like (in general but also in your life)? Why is it so wrong?

Read 2 Cor 9:6-8

- The agricultural picture that Paul paints is powerful. Imagine a farmer who sows his seed sparingly yet expects a generous crop. What would we call such a farmer? What must a farmer do to expect a generous, bumper crop?
- How do we "decide in our heart (what) to give"? What does this decision making process look like? Talk about the process you use or have used to determine how generous God is asking you to be.
- Why might some people feel reluctant to give, or under pressure (compulsion) to give?
- Why do you think our attitude behind our giving (cheerfulness) is so important to God?
- If we give begrudgingly, what might we be tempted to feel towards God, especially if things don't work out (financially or otherwise) as we hoped or expected?
- Notice that God promises to take care of us, to make "all grace abound to us," so that we will have all that we need and will abound in every good work. While this certainly seems to

include financial blessing from God, do you think it is limited to financial blessing? What other non-financial ways might God's blessing or "grace abounding" take? What are some ways God's provision - so that we have all that we need - might take in addition to financial and monetary?

APPLY

- What is one area where you believe God is pleased by your generosity?
- What is one area where you believe God is asking you to step out in faith and be more generous?
- Which other aspect of this study has struck you the most and why? What are you going to do as a result ?
- Identify one or more truths from this study which speak to and can be applied in your life.
 - 1.
 - 2.

PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH AND FOR ONE ANOTHER

- According to need.