

GENEROSITY IS NOT A NUMBER

A Famous Story/ A Forgotten Context

The Prequel:
Luke 20:45-47

A Widow's Gift:
Luke 21:1-4

The Epilogue:
Luke 21:5-38

Generosity Is Not A Number!

Luke 21:1-4

- (1) Never confuse a biblical **description**
with a biblical **prescription**
- (2) Generosity is measured by what's **left over**
far more than what's **put in**
Luke 21:3-4/ 2 Corinthians 8:1-4/ 2 Samuel 24:24
- (3) When we give to **impress**,
we get what we **paid for**
Matthew 6:1-4
- (4) We aren't called to meet **every need**,
we are called to meet **some needs**
2 Corinthians 9:7/ Acts 5:4/ 2 Thessalonians 3:10/ James 1:27

The Four Guiding Principles Of Generosity

2 Corinthians 8:12 & 1 Corinthians 16:1-2/ 2 Samuel 24:24/ Proverbs 3:9-10/ 2 Corinthians 9:6-11

- (1) **Proportional**
- (2) **Sacrificial**
- (3) A step of **Faith**
- (4) An act of **Thanksgiving**

TAKING IT HOME

1. Larry mentioned four guiding principles of generosity. After reviewing them, how are you doing at incorporating each of them into your giving?

2. In Matthew 6:25, Jesus illustrated a number of distractions that can cause us to lose contentment and even become greedy or money hungry. If you had the opportunity to rewrite this verse, what distractions would you add to make it apply even more specifically to you?

3. Generosity is not limited to what we do with our money. We can be generous in our time, sharing our expertise, opening our home, etc. Is there any non-monetary area you sense the Holy Spirit motivating you to be more generous in?

Prayer Requests:

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NORTH COAST
community  service



Christmas Tree Sales for Community Service

We will be pre-selling Christmas trees, wreaths and garland to help raise money for our Community Service ministry. Order online at northcoastchurch.com/trees, in the Plaza on the Vista Campus before and after weekend services, or at the church office during the week. Trees can be picked up on Sat., Dec. 3 at the Vista campus. Contact Ashleigh at (760) 724-6700 x251 or aearnest@northcoastchurch.com with questions.

SERMON SERIES: 30 A.D. *The Jesus Story*
Message #53: Generosity Is Not A Number
Luke 21:1-4

Dr. Larry Osborne
North Coast Church
October 22-23, 2011

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- (1) Never confuse a biblical _____
with a biblical _____
- (2) Generosity is measured by what's _____
far more than what's _____
Luke 21:3-4/ 2 Corinthians 8:1-4/ 2 Samuel 24:24
- (3) When we give to _____,
we get what we _____
Matthew 6:1-4
- (4) We aren't called to meet _____,
we are called to meet _____
2 Corinthians 9:7/ Acts 5:4/ 2 Thessalonians 3:10/ James 1:27

The Four Guiding Principles Of Generosity

2 Corinthians 8:12 & 1 Corinthians 16:1-2/ 2 Samuel 24:24/ Proverbs 3:9-10/ 2 Corinthians 9:6-11

- (1) _____
- (2) _____
- (3) A step of _____
- (4) An act of _____

Growth Group Homework

For the week of October 23, 2011

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from *Generosity Is Not A Number*, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

MY STORY

1. We live in a society where most people have a lot of material possessions. At times, it can be tricky to know the difference between what we need and what we want. Based upon your observations, what are two or three typical “wants” that people often confuse with “needs?”

How would you define the difference between a want and a need?

2. Did you have an example of giving or any encouragement to be generous while you were growing up?

What about any training on handling your finances—did you receive any of that growing up?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. We constantly experience the tension between balancing the pursuit of being rich in good deeds with being rich in material possessions. A big part of the dilemma is a lie we often believe: that financial success is more rewarding than the pursuit of God and making an eternal investment. What does Psalm 112:1-9 suggest you gain when you pursue a relationship with God, that no material possession will ever give you?

In what ways could this passage be helpful in motivating a person to want to pursue God more consistently?

2. The Bible calls us to give to God first before we meet the rest of our financial responsibilities. This “giving off the top” is both an act of thanking God for his current provision AND a way of trusting him for future provision. Yet throughout history, many of God’s people have given to his work primarily out of what’s left over rather than off the top. What surprises you about God’s attitude toward this practice in Malachi 3:7-12?

Can you think of any reasons people have for giving out of their leftovers rather than off the top?

What is most challenging to you about “giving off the top?”

3. It’s natural to think that if we made more money, we would be more generous. But studies show that a rise in income doesn’t necessarily mean a rise in giving. If you were to come into financial prosperity in the near future, how could the following verses help you be one of the people who actually become more generous?

Proverbs 3:9-10

Proverbs 15:22

Ecclesiastes 5:10

Matthew 6:19-21