

— SUPERNATURAL GENEROSITY —

Becoming Generous

In the last few weeks, we looked at how we have an incredibly generous God. We took a closer look at the Godhead; God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and saw how generous God is towards us in every aspect. We also looked at the idea that when we follow Jesus (the idea of picking up our cross daily – dying to self and living for Him), everything comes under His Lordship.

The challenge of course for us is that we would be people who reflect the generous nature of God; generous with our possessions, generous with our money, our time, our talents and gifts and our lives. We want the community around us to know that we are an incredibly generous people and that this would point towards our generous God.

Trust in God's Re-supplying Power – 1 Kings 17:7-16

Every time we are moved towards generosity, every time we are challenged to give something of ourselves or of what we have, we will also be in a place where we will question can we afford to do it.

Generous people understand the principle of God's Re-supplying Power.

How you grapple with the re-supply promise of God will determine to a large extent how generous you will be in the future.

Give to God first. Why does God tell us to give to Him first? It is so that we might learn to worship Him, it's teaching us to always put God first in our life.

When I give the first part of my income back to God before anything else as a gift to Him, it says three things:

1. I'm grateful for all you've given me in the past.
2. You're number one in my life right now.
3. And I'm going to trust you in the future.

God doesn't need what we have - He wants what it represents - our trust in Him.

If you never step out in faith, you will never know the promise of God's re-supply

Give It Over - John 6:1-15

If we want to be a generous people, if we want to be used by God in showing His nature as a generous God, if we want to be used by God in a powerful way, we have to put everything into His hands. We have to Give It Over.

Because the boy surrendered his lunch, he ended up eating far more than he ever would have had he kept it. Not only was he filled, but everyone around him was filled, and that is the paradox of God. You cannot out-give God. You cannot out-bless God.

That's what Jesus means when He says, "Those who lose their lives for My sake will find it" (Matthew 10:39). Because if you lose your life for Christ you will get your life back but bigger, and greater and deeper than it would have been if you had kept it.

Little Things Make a Big Difference

Small gifts really, really, really matter to God (Luke 21:1-4).

It's not the size of the gift as opposed to the size of the faith required to give the gift.

The boy with his lunch only had something small - but he gave it up and he got to connect his story into the unending glorious, majestic story of God.

Now he has a testimony to God's glory.

Everyone has some time, everybody has some talent. You have some resources, some money and possessions, and they may only feel like they are small in comparison to what others have BUT God says every little bit matters.

It's a generous person who learns how to be able to give up what they have, regardless of its size, and allow the miracle working God to take it and use it for His glory.

You have a gift, you have an ability...all of us...we have some loaves and fish. The question is...What are you going to do with them?

Conclusion

God can only use those who are willing to surrender what they have. It doesn't matter if it's a lot or a little – it's the attitude of the heart that matters.

Take a risk and give God space to give you a testimony that is going to change your life and generations unknown.

Pray the most dangerous prayer in the world, and ask God to use you for His glory.

Discussion Questions

1. Share a testimony of a time when you have trusted in God's re-supplying power and seen God at work.

2. What are the biggest fears you have to overcome to become a generous person?

3. Giving first to God is a step of faith. Share either how this has become a normal part of your life and how you do this OR share what makes this difficult for you to put God first (particularly in your finances).

4. Discuss the idea of the 'tithe' (giving the first 10%) as an Old Testament instruction to follow. Here's a few verses to look up – Genesis 14:20; Genesis 28:22; Leviticus 27:30-32; Numbers 18:21-27; Deuteronomy 12:4-19 and 14:22-27.

5. Investigate what generosity looked like in the early church that came out from under the law. Luke 6:38; Luke 12:33-34; Acts 2:44-45; 2 Corinthians 9:6-8; 1 Timothy 6:17-19; Hebrews 13:6.

6. Discuss the idea that 10% is a good starting point towards being a generous person in light of the previous two questions.

7. God really values the small things we have to offer. It's an opportunity for Him to bring Himself glory as He creates a miracle in our lives. What will you do to be an instrument of God in creating the future? What's the miracle Jesus wants to do through you?

8. What is it that you need to surrender to Jesus to allow you to be a generous person reflecting the generous nature of our generous God?