
THE BLESSED LIFE

Part 8 - Secret Generosity

Giving to the Needy

Matthew 6:1-4

Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.

So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honoured by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. Then your father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

Today I thought I would sit in this uncomfortable place for me and try to look at a better way to live.

A kingdom's way of living releasing some of that fear and some of that lack of trust in my life and maybe it will for other people in the room.

Matthew 6:19-24

Throughout this series we have focused on what it looks like for the kingdom of heaven to break into the earth through Jesus. Jesus repeatedly puts emphasis on this new kingdom breaking into the earth through Him and what the values of this kingdom are.

One of the most difficult things about generosity is that for it to be overflow of the kingdom we must acknowledge that the generosity of God that becomes a blessing for us is often not a physical thing but more spiritual.

Whether it's the acceptance of forgiveness and grace through salvation, whether it's the gifts of the spirit, whether it's the fruit of the Spirit coming out in our lives. These things don't pay the bills, they don't let you own a house, they don't let you go out for dinner.

However, Jesus points out that the treasures of heaven will last longer and be in eternity.

But God has given in abundance. God has given life and everything that comes with it. The gifts, the fruit, the blessings of God - they are all incredible, but they come under the best gift which is salvation. God is a generous God; He gives freely and abundantly.

Mark 12:41-44

I think this passage gives us a beautiful picture of what it is to store our treasures in heaven and the response of the righteous to the generosity of the Lord.

When Jesus highlights this woman amid people who gave more money and more "generously" He is really acknowledging that her heart had gratitude for the Lord and so gave of herself back to Him.

It's about our acknowledgment of the dependency on the lord and the posture of our heart to give glory to him. Generosity is giving freely of what was given by the Lord for his glory.

Matthew 6:1-4

Jesus has said we should give to those who are struggling but the implication is that it's more than just monetary, but rather out of the riches of heaven of which you have been given.

But what about the doing it in secret part?

Jesus specifically says practising righteousness and that means practising generosity and the things of the kingdom are out of a pure motivation for God's glory, not for our own.

Because freely He gave in abundance, He deserves the glory for the rest of eternity. That is generosity.

Questions for Discussion

1. Is money or things of this Earth an idol over God and do you need to release that stronghold in your life?
2. When you are generous, does it come with strings attached or a need for validation?
3. Is your definition of generosity too small? How can it grow into the fullness of the kingdom?
4. Do you feel lack or the abundance of the kingdom?

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: *If you believe God is asking you to be secretly* :
: *generous today, and you would like to give through* :
: *Riverlife, you can find the details on the next page.* :
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FOR PRAYER



For Youth in Detention

- + Let's keep praying for all of those young people who are currently detained at Brisbane Youth Detention Centres.
- + God is certainly at work there. Our Juvie Ministry teams share powerful stories of young people having life-changing encounters with God's Word and love almost every week!
- + Let's stand in the gap for all of them, and let's contest in prayer for their protection from the enemy and for their hearts.

Alpha at Wolston Prison

- + Thank God for the opportunity to visit the Wolston Men's Prison to run Alpha. Pray for God to break through into the hearts of the men who are attending and that good relationships will be made between the team members and the participants.

Japanese Christian Fellowship

- + JCF (Japanese Christian Fellowship) is a multicultural ministry of Riverlife. For many years, it has provided emotional, spiritual, and relational support to Japanese international students. Through it, many students have encountered Jesus and given their lives to Him.
- + Pray that JCF continues to be a place of blessing so that more overseas students can have a sense of belonging and develop a relationship with Jesus.
- + If you or anyone you know might benefit from this ministry or are interested in Japanese culture, please contact Dr Nick Kikuchi (Nick@kikuchis.net).

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