



## **Growing Generous**

### **Key idea:**

As those who are cared for and blessed by God, we should develop a heart that is generous towards others in thought and action, willing to help in whatever way we can.

### **Key text:**

Proverbs 11:24-26

One man gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty.

A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed.

People curse the man who hoards grain, but blessing crowns him who is willing to sell.

### **Key points:**

1. Scripture teaches that generosity and stinginess both have clear, predictable results in the lives of those who practice them (Proverbs 11:24-26; 17:5; 19:17; 21:13; 22:9; 22:22-23; 28:8; 28:22; 28:27; Psalm 41:1; 112:5; Ecclesiastes 5:13; Isaiah 58:6-12; Luke 6:38; 1 Timothy 6:18-19).
2. Scripture commands us to be generous with our money and possessions, especially with those who are poor or vulnerable (Proverbs 11:24-26; 14:21; 14:31; 22:9; 28:27; Leviticus 23:22; Isaiah 58:6-12; Ezekiel 16:49; 1 Timothy 6:18-19; James 1:27; 1 John 3:17-18).
3. Scripture commands us to be generous with our time and talents, using them to serve others (Exodus 23:4-5; 1 Timothy 6:18-19; James 1:27).
4. Scripture commands us to develop a generous attitude and spirit, not one that is mocking or cruel (Proverbs 11:25; 14:21; 17:5; 19:17; 21:13; Isaiah 58:9-10; Ezekiel 16:49; Zechariah 7:10; Matthew 5:7; Acts 20:35; Romans 12:15; 14:3-4; 14:10-13; 1 Corinthians 13:7; Galatians 6:1; James 1:27).
5. Scripture commands that we must be generous in how we develop our society and also the way we conduct our business (Proverbs 11:26; 22:22-23; 28:8; Leviticus 23:22; Deuteronomy 24:12-13; 24:14; 24:19; Psalm 112:5; Zechariah 7:10; James 1:27)

6. Scripture commands us to be generous in forgiveness to others (Proverbs 10:12; 17:9; Matthew 5:7; Luke 6:37; 17:4; Galatians 6:1; Ephesians 4:32; Colossians 3:13)
7. Scripture commands us to be generous in our prayer for others, even our enemies (Luke 6:27-28; 23:34; Acts 7:60)
8. The basis for our generosity is the Gospel, and God's generous grace given to us.

**Questions for discussion/application:**

1. What part of Sunday's text and teaching stood out most to me? Why?
2. Was I surprised to see how much Scripture speaks of generosity in my treatment of others? Have I ever heard much about this before?
3. How do I initially respond to people who are generous and kind to me? What is my initial response to those who are stingy or mean-spirited to me? What does Luke 6:37 tell me I should expect to see in this regard?
4. When I consider the six areas of generosity listed above, which one do I sense the Holy Spirit showing me that I struggle with the most? Why do I struggle with growing generous in this area?
5. How can I draw upon the Holy Spirit's power to grow generous in the area I identified in question 4?
6. When I consider our culture at present, do I think we are growing more generous, or more hard-hearted toward one another? Why? What can I do to encourage others to grow generous in attitude and action?
7. Why is the Gospel the key for me to grow generous? What specific ways has God been generous to me? How should I think and act in light of this?
8. Whom can I pray for, share what I have learned, and invite to church this week?

**Preview of next week: A Life of Transformation (Romans 12:1-2)**