

GENEROSITY

Illustration: Story of me saving a lady in cabo - no one would say that I saved her for my own benefit. The position I was in gave me the responsibility to act. Today we're going to talk about generosity because the position I'm in gives me the responsibility to act.

1 Timothy 6:17 Teach those who are rich in this world not to be proud and not to trust in their money, which is so unreliable. Their trust should be in God, who richly gives us all we need for our enjoyment.

Money promises to buy you what only God can give you.

PEACE

(no more worries / rest in your soul / your home problems will be fixed)

JOY

(you will be happy / the movies with the person throwing the money in the air / stealing and escaping to Mexico)

SECURITY

(you will have money in the bank / retirement / eliminate risk / it serves as a blanket)

CONFIDENCE

You will look so good to others / your cars / your jewelry / your home)

Matthew 6:24 "No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

1 Timothy 6:18 Tell them to use their money to do good. They should be rich in good works and generous to those in need, always being ready to share with others. 19 By doing this they will be storing up their treasure as a good foundation for the future so that they may experience true life.

- **Generosity is love in action.**

John 3:16 "For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.

Illustration: Malachi tipping the store clerk at a general store in Waterville valley. IT'S WHAT WE DO.

We open doors, we give words of life away, we give of our time and talent, we give away grace and forgiveness.... WE ARE LIVING EXAMPLES OF GENEROSITY

1 John 3:16-18 We know what real love is because Jesus gave up his life for us. So we also ought to give up our lives for our brothers and sisters. If someone has enough money to live well and sees a brother or sister in need but shows no compassion—how can God's love be in that person? Dear children, let's not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions.

Love and generosity always walk side by side. You can give without loving but you can't love without giving.

Illustration: On vacation Jen and I always pray and ask who we can give to.

-Generosity is sacrifice not surplus.

Mark 12:41-44 Jesus sat down near the collection box in the Temple and watched as the crowds dropped in their money. Many rich people put in large amounts. Then a poor widow came and dropped in two small coins. Jesus called his disciples to him and said, "I tell you the truth, this poor widow has given more than all the others who are making contributions. For they gave a tiny part of their surplus, but she, poor as she is, has given everything she had to live on."

Generosity is giving beyond what's comfortable.

-Generosity is not being owned by what you own.

Matthew 19:21-24 Jesus told him, "If you want to be perfect, go and sell all your possessions and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." But when the young man heard this, he went away sad, for he had many possessions. Then Jesus said to his disciples, "I tell you the truth, it is very hard for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. I'll say it again—it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of God!"

WHY? Because money can convince us we don't need a savior.

-Generosity is blessed

2 Corinthians 9:6 Remember this—a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop.

Illustration: 200 dollars starting NLC. Staff member told me in Keene it's amazing what 200 dollars can get you.

One of the ways we give to God and He blesses us is the TITHE...

Malachi 3:8-10 "Should people cheat God? Yet you have cheated me! "But you ask, 'What do you mean? When did we ever cheat you?' "You have cheated me of the tithes and offerings due to me. You are under a curse, for your whole nation has been cheating me. Bring all the tithes into the storehouse so there will be enough food in my Temple. If you do," says the LORD of Heaven's Armies, "I will open the windows of heaven for you. I will pour out a blessing so great you won't have enough room to take it in! Try it! Put me to the test!"

Visual Illustration: APPLES

BAPTISM VIDEO