



PRACTICING THE WAY: GENEROSITY

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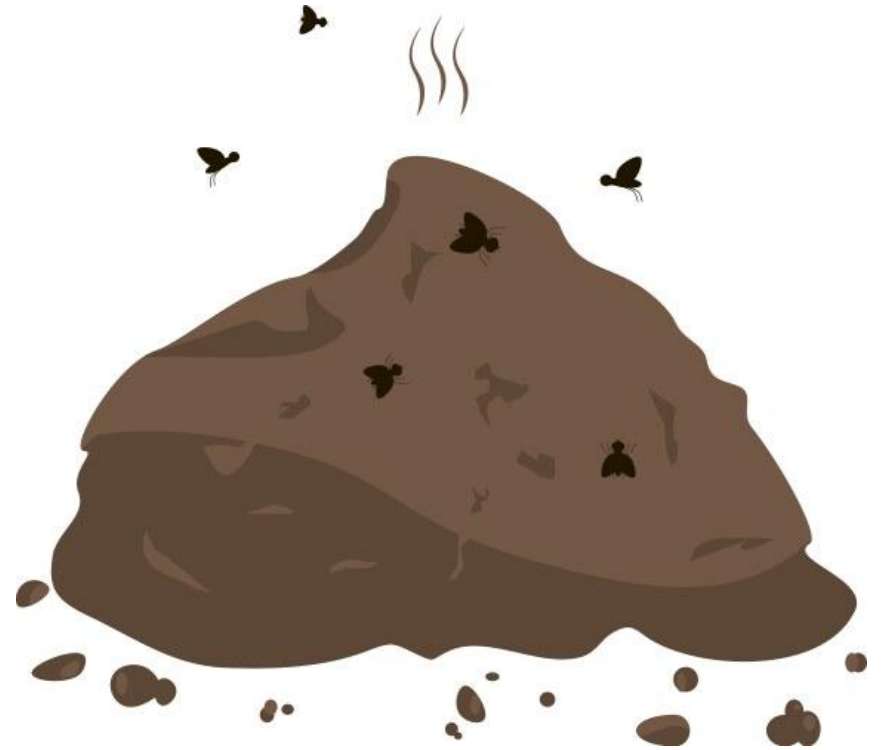
INTRODUCTION

- Generosity – It's more blessed to give than receive.
- Generosity – with no strings attached.
- Generosity as a lifestyle.

Nature: The more generous you are, the happier you are.

INTRODUCTION

“Money is like manure. When you spread it around, it causes things to grow; when you pile it up, it begins to stink!”



GENEROSITY - IT'S MORE BLESSED TO GIVE THAN RECEIVE

Acts 20:35 (*Paul speaking*)

³³ I have not coveted anyone's silver or gold or clothing. ³⁴ You yourselves know that these hands of mine have supplied my own needs and the needs of my companions. ³⁵ In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: ***'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'*** ”

MATTHEW 6:19-24

NIV

¹⁹ “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

MATTHEW 6:19-24

NIV

²² “The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light. ²³ But if your eyes are unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!

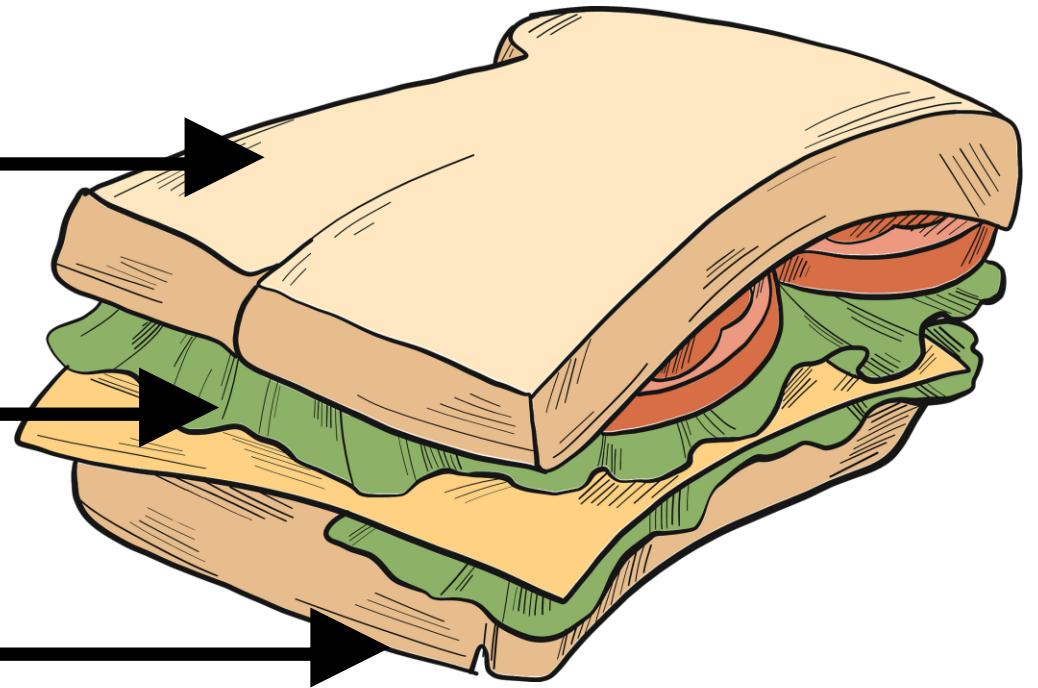
²⁴ “No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

GENEROSITY - IT'S MORE BLESSED TO GIVE THAN RECEIVE

Choosing between 2 treasures
Matthew 6:19-21

Choosing between 2 sets of eyes
Matthew 6:22-23

Choosing between 2 masters
Matthew 6:24



GENEROSITY - IT'S MORE BLESSED TO GIVE THAN RECEIVE

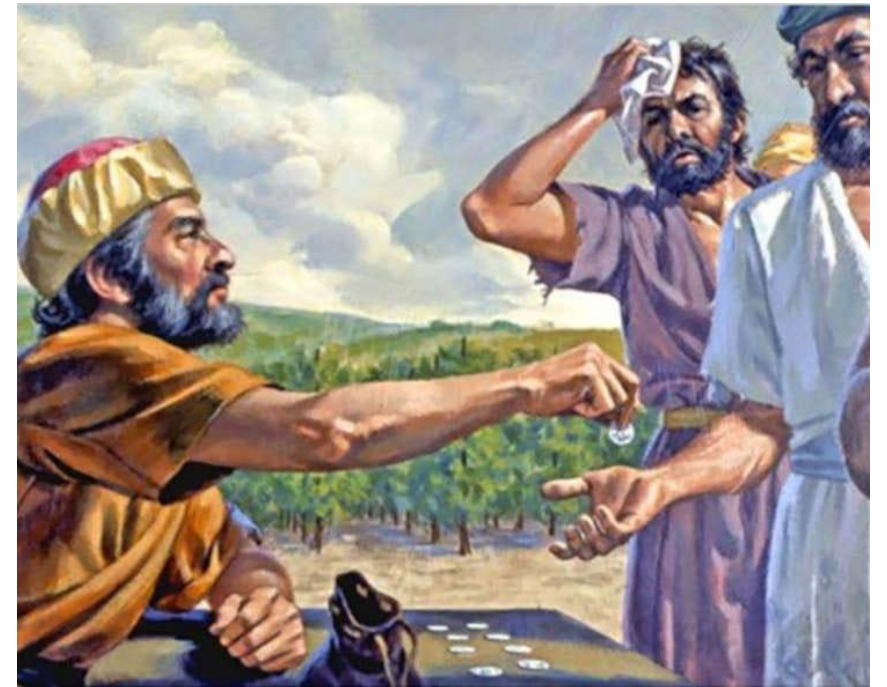
- Greek word for healthy is *haplous*
 - If your eye is *single* (KJV + many others)...
 - If your eye is *clear* [*spiritually perceptive*] (NASB/AMP)...
 - Other translations: When your eyes are *good, sound, unclouded, sincere, pure...* we will be full of light.
 - Complete Jewish Bible - So if you have a 'good eye' [*that is, if you are generous*] your whole body will be full of light.

GENEROSITY - IT'S MORE BLESSED TO GIVE THAN RECEIVE

- Greek word for unhealthy is *ponēros*
 - But if your eye is *evil or bad* (KJV + many others...
 - But if your eye is *bad [spiritually blind]* (AMP) ...
 - Other translations: *not good, clouded, unsound, unclear, diseased, wayward...*
 - Complete Jewish Bible - but if you have an 'evil eye' [*if you are stingy*] your whole body will be full of darkness.

GENEROSITY - IT'S MORE BLESSED TO GIVE THAN RECEIVE

- Workers in the Vineyard
(*Matthew 20:15*)
 - Don't I have the right to do what I want with my own money?
 - Or are you envious (*ponēros*) because I am generous?



GENEROSITY - IT'S MORE BLESSED TO GIVE THAN RECEIVE

- Rich Fool (*Luke 12:15*)
 - “Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.”



GENEROSITY - IT'S MORE BLESSED TO GIVE THAN RECEIVE

Jesus is promoting a life of sacrificial generosity focused on serving the kingdom of God rather than serving oneself, having our lives filled with his light and our hearts filled with his love. Living, seeing and responding like Jesus would.

GENEROSITY – NO STRINGS ATTACHED

Luke 6:32-36 (NIV)

³² “If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. ³³ And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that. ³⁴ And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, expecting to be repaid in full. ³⁵ But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. ³⁶ Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.”

GENEROSITY – NO STRINGS ATTACHED

Luke 6:35 (MSG)

³⁵ “I tell you, love your enemies. Help and give without expecting a return. You’ll never—I promise—regret it. Live out this God-created identity the way our Father lives toward us, generously and graciously, even when we’re at our worst. Our Father is kind; you be kind.”

GENEROSITY – NO STRINGS ATTACHED

Matthew 6:1-4

¹ “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. ² 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. ³ But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴ so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.”

GENEROSITY – NO STRINGS ATTACHED

Keep the thing so secret that even you yourself are hardly aware that you are doing anything at all praiseworthy. Let God be present, and you will have enough of an audience.

Charles Spurgeon

GENEROSITY AS A LIFESTYLE

- “If your eyes are generous...”
 - This is not about responding to an appeal in a meeting
 - It’s not about responding to an emergency or major incident
- Lifestyle – practicing the way, doing it, repeating it, learning from doing it, it until it’s part of who we are.
- Intentionally seeking to be generous all of the time.
 - with money, time, resource, our attention...

GENEROSITY AS A LIFESTYLE

- So what can we do practically?
 - Give from the heart not from the head
 - Drop off groceries to someone in need
 - Buy a gift for someone simply to encourage them (outside of birthdays etc)
 - Something you don't need – give it away rather than put it on Facebook market
 - Give regularly to non-profit organisations such as Foodbank, City Fund, Charity shops...
 - When I am blessed, intentionally ask yourself, what's for me to enjoy, what's for me to share?
 - Ask yourself the question – what might be stopping me from living a life of generosity?

FINALLY

2 Corinthians 9:6-10 (AMP)

⁶ Now [remember] this: he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows generously [that blessings may come to others] will also reap generously [and be blessed]. ⁷ Let each one give [thoughtfully and with purpose] just as he has decided in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver [and delights in the one whose heart is in his gift].

FINALLY

2 Corinthians 9:6-10 (AMP)

⁸ And God is able to make all grace [every favour and earthly blessing] come in abundance to you, so that you may always [under all circumstances, regardless of the need] have complete sufficiency in everything [being completely self-sufficient in Him], and have an abundance for every good work and act of charity.

FINALLY

2 Corinthians 9:6-10 (AMP)

⁹ As it is written and forever remains written,

“He [the benevolent and generous person] scattered abroad, he gave to the poor, His righteousness endures forever!”

¹⁰ Now He who provides seed for the sower and bread for food will provide and multiply your seed for sowing [that is, your resources] and increase the harvest of your righteousness [which shows itself in active goodness, kindness, and love].