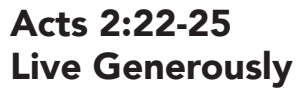


**April 7, 2024**



1. Share an experience where you or your family were the beneficiaries of radical generosity and the impact it had upon you.
2. Discuss why the topic of generosity and money or tithing can often be such a difficult topic among Christians and how we might be able to have honest conversations with one another without trepidation.

3. Read Acts 2:42-45
- Summarize how the early church took care of one another.

What can we learn of how they lived out God's heart in this passage?

4. Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-11
- Summarize Paul's main point in this passage.

What part is most challenging to you?

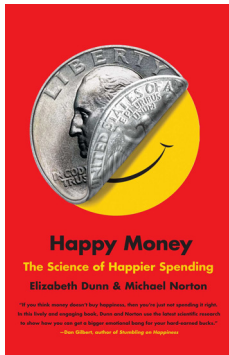
5. Jesus and the apostles regularly spoke of storing up treasure in heaven, and Jesus spoke of giving in order to gain "eternal friends" in Luke 16. One pastor said, "you can't take it with you, but you can send it on ahead." What does it look like practically for us to take this seriously today? How do we do this?

6. Read Malachi 3:7-10.
- The Old Testament law for tithing is no longer mandated for New Testament Christians. What relevance does the principle and heart of God regarding tithing and giving of your "first fruits" look like today?

7. Share in what ways God has been challenging you in the area of generosity.

**Mark 10:29**

Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands, for my sake and for the gospel, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and in the age to come eternal life.

**Elizabeth Dunn & Michael Norton - Happy Money**

But the amount of money individuals devoted to themselves was unrelated to their overall happiness. What did predict happiness? The amount of money they gave away. The more they invested in others, the happier they were.

**Acts 2:42 (NLT)**

They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

**Acts 3:1 (NLT)**

Peter and John went to the Temple one afternoon to take part in the three o'clock prayer service.

**Acts 2:43 (NLT)**

Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles.

**Acts 2:44-46 (NLT)**

And all the believers were together and had all things in common; and they would sell their property and possessions and share them with all, to the extent that anyone had need.

**Proverbs 14:31 (ESV)**

..he who is generous to the needy honors [God].

**Proverbs 21:26 (NLT)**

Some people are always greedy for more, but the godly love to give!

**Proverbs 22:9 (CSB)**

A generous person will be blessed, for he shares his food with the poor.

**Proverbs 11:24-25 (NLT)**

Give freely and become more wealthy; be stingy and lose everything. The generous will prosper; those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed.

**2 Corinthians 9:13 (NLT)**

..your generosity to [the Jerusalem church] and to all believers will prove that you are obedient to the Good News of Christ.

**Deuteronomy 15:10 (NLT)**

*Give generously to the poor, not grudgingly, for the Lord your God will bless you in everything you do.*

**Matthew 6:21 (CSB)**

*For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

**2 Corinthians 9:6–11 (NLT)**

*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. You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. "For God loves a person who gives cheerfully." And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others... For God is the one who provides seed for the farmer and then bread to eat. In the same way, he will provide and increase your resources and then produce a great harvest of generosity in you. Yes, you will be enriched in every way so that you can always be generous.*

**1 Timothy 6:18–19 (NIV)**

*Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.*

**Matthew 6:20 (NIV)**

*..store up for yourselves treasures in heaven..*

**Luke 16:9–12 (NLT)**

*Here's the lesson: Use your worldly resources to benefit others and make friends. Then, when your possessions are gone, they will welcome you to an eternal home. And if you are untrustworthy about worldly wealth, who will trust you with the true riches of heaven?*

**Dr. Kent Hughes**

What is inescapably clear here is that our wealth and possessions are to be used to win eternal friends. This is the proper use of what we have. We must give generously of our money for the furtherance of the gospel. If we are not doing so, we are not making proper use of what God has given us and we are not enhancing eternal friendships. This is an intensely spiritual matter.

**2 Corinthians 8:7 (NLT)**

*Since you excel in so many ways - in your faith, your gifted speakers, your knowledge, your enthusiasm, and your love from us - I want you to excel also in this gracious act of giving.*

**Malachi 3:8–10 (NIV)**

*But you ask, "How are we robbing you?"*

*"In tithes and offerings... Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it."*