

THE GENEROSITY PARADOX

Lesson One • Luke 6:38

The Dynamics of Generosity

What Is the Generosity Paradox?

By GIVING we receive; by GRASPING we lose.

The Dynamics of Generosity

1. It Is More Blessed to GIVE than to Receive!

And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." Acts 20:35 NKJV

The Blessings of Giving

- Giving frees us from the bond of GREED.

Then He said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions." Luke 16:10 NIV

- Giving frees us from the grip of MATERIALISM.

Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs. 1Timothy 6:9-10 NIV

- Giving frees us from the myth of "money makes you HAPPY."

Those who love money will never have enough. How meaningless to think that wealth brings true happiness! The more you have, the more people come to help you spend it. So what good is wealth—except perhaps to watch it slip through your fingers! Ecclesiastes 5:10-11 NLT

2. Give, and It Will Be GIVEN to You!

"Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you." Luke 6:38 NKJV

The Dynamics of Generosity

- The practice of generosity: true generosity GIVES willingly from the heart.

For I bear witness that according to their ability, yes, and beyond their ability, they were freely willing, imploring us with much urgency that we would receive the gift and the fellowship of the ministering to the saints. And not only as we had hoped, but they first gave themselves to the Lord, and then to us by the will of God. 2Corinthians 8:3-5 NKJV

- The promise of generosity: those who give generously will RECEIVE generously.

Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine. Proverbs 3:9-10 ESV

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." Malachi 3:10 NIV

Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. 2Corinthians 9:7-8 NIV

- The principle of generosity: the way you give is the WAY you will receive in return.

I was young and now I am old, yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken or their children begging bread. They are always generous and lend freely; their children will be a blessing. Psalm 37:25-26 NIV

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. 2Corinthians 9:6 NIV

The Real Issue in the Generosity Paradox Is TRUST!

Can God trust me with money? Do I trust God more than money?

"Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much." Luke 16:10 NIV

Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man who trusts in Him. Psalm 34:8 NKJV