

## Chapter 10 - Be Generous

1. Take a few minutes to reflect on the story.
  - A) When most of us think of generosity, what comes to mind is someone with a great deal of money giving away large sums of it. The story raises the idea of generosity being applied to other areas. Think about your resources what you have that could be shared generously with others.
  - B) Even a single act of generosity can make a profound impact on the beneficiary. Think of a time or two when your life was changed significantly by an act of generosity. Remember to consider things other than money.
  - C) Consider your own life. Do you find it easy to be generous? Think about some ways you could determine if your generosity is prompted by the Holy Spirit as opposed to other motives (compassion, notoriety, or “paying it forward” for example).

2. Luke 6:30-36 makes it clear that true generosity of spirit is not present when you have a serious expectation of a return of some sort. What are some of the benefits we might be tempted to look for in return for “generosity?” (The goal here is to become aware of potential hidden motives.)

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3. Reflect on the generosity of God. He didn't just forgive us, He made us His children. He didn't just give us life, He gave us abundant life. Think of more examples along these lines.

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4. Consider the concept of “my time is my own.” You may basically agree or disagree with the idea, but consider the ramifications of both points of view. How does your response shape your behaviour and affect the community.

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5. Blessings that come from people who are generous, but make sure we recognize their generosity, aren't as precious as they might be. Attitude makes a significant difference. Jot down some thoughts on the difference between true generosity of spirit and using generosity to impress others.

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6. Consider your own life in regard to your acts of generosity. Are you as generous when no one will know about it as you are when others are aware of it? What could you do to improve your attitude?

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7. Try to get outside of your own head for a moment and think about how others see you. Pick someone in the community, another in church, and a family member. How do you think these different people see generosity in your life? Is there good balance?

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8. We are very focussed on the material world. Most of our prayer time is devoted to asking God to intervene in it in one way or another. Remind yourself of the illustration of the cistern and the well. This will be a challenge for most of us, but try to think of ways that you can bring the inexhaustible spiritual blessings of God to bear on the ever-present material needs around us.

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**For Group Leaders:**

Some of us are more generous than others. Some merely appear to be more generous than others. Use this chapter to highlight the differences between reality and perception. Help your group members to recognize the way we all tend to “spin” things to put ourselves in the best light.

As a group, think of ways that you can be generous to someone.

- Don’t confine your considerations to material needs, but don’t ignore them.
- Don’t limit yourself to people within your church context, but don’t ignore them.

Make a plan in which you can all participate to demonstrate God’s generosity. Try to communicate to the person you are blessing that God cares for them and that your expression of that care is also prompted by your love for them.

Be sure to set aside a little time after you finish to discuss your own response to what you’ve done as well as the effectiveness. Remember the main goal is that God be glorified, though it’s good when people are blessed and you (as the blessers) are edified.