

Transformed

From Tight-Fisted to Living Generously

Reflect

- 1) In your view, what does it mean to “live generously?”
- 2) Agree or disagree: Being tight-fisted is natural. Why or why not?
- 3) What are the biggest obstacles that people must overcome to live generously?

Read Your Bible

- 2 Corinthians 9:6-8
- Acts 20:32-35
- Luke 21:1-4
- Matthew 16:19-21

Apply God’s Word to Your Life

- 1) Matthew states, “Where your treasure is there your heart will be also.” Why is being generous or stingy a matter of the heart?
- 2) There are various “takeaways” from Luke 21. What is your main takeaway in terms of what Jesus is teaching you here?
- 3) Taking Jesus at His word (see Acts 20), why do you think it is more blessed to give than to receive?
- 4) Why do you think “God loves a cheerful giver?”
- 5) Based on the scripture lessons, what are some of the key ingredients for moving from tight-fisted to living generously?
- 6) In your opinion, what does God expect of you regarding generosity?

The call of followers of Jesus is to live a life reaching beyond ourselves. Tight-fistedness, simply stated, is the result of a self-centered life. It is the result of a heart that is focused on the things of this world. When we expand our worldview by joining with God in His work in this world, we align ourselves with the generous nature of God who blesses and gives out of His love and grace. When we find our purpose and joy in conforming to the image of Christ, we shed the inclinations to indulge in materialistic fantasies and desires. As scripture says, “Where your treasure is there your heart will be also.” Living generously creates in us an attitude of gratitude that is good for our souls. The key to living a life of generosity is to develop a heart that delights in who God is.

Pray

Lord, as I look to the cross of Christ, I see clearly who You are. You are a God who gives out of the abundance of Your grace and love for me and all people. You are a God who blesses me in ways I see and in ways I cannot comprehend. Thank you for all the ways You are generous to me. Work with me Lord. Forgive me when my self-centered nature gets in the way of who You want me to be as a generous son/daughter of Yours whose calling is to be a blessing to Your world and to the people You love of this world. Here I am Lord! Do Your work in me and move me from tight-fistedness to living generously. I am seeking to follow the example of Your Son. Amen.