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THE GOOD LIFE

Week 5 | Becoming Generous | Teacher: Libin Abraham
Sermon Questions for 11.15.2026

OPENER

Jesus said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." Generosity changes us from the inside out – it produces good in the world and multiplies thanksgiving to God. Believing in generosity and becoming a generous person are not the same thing. A generous life doesn't happen by accident; we're invited to get practical to move generosity from being a good intention into a good plan.

READ

1 Corinthians 16:1-4; Acts 20:35; Proverbs 3:9; Deuteronomy 16:17; 2 Corinthians 8:12; Mark 12:43

MAIN POINTS

1. Priority: Generosity begins with what we put first

Paul tells the Corinthians, "each of you is to set something aside." That means deliberately giving it a purpose before it gets absorbed into other spending. Generosity becomes part of your plan, not merely a possibility if something remains. Putting generosity first reminds us that God is first.

2. Planned: Generosity grows through consistent practice

Paul asked the church to set aside their gift "on the first day of the week," building a regular rhythm. We are shaped by what we repeatedly do, so giving only when emotionally moved stays inconsistent. Generosity becomes a lifestyle when it becomes a rhythm.

3. Proportionate: Generosity grows as God provides

Paul asks each person to give "in keeping with how he is prospering," not the same amount. New Testament generosity is shaped by grace, willingness, sacrifice, and love, not requirement. Giving is first a heart issue before it is a math issue. Like the widow in Mark 12, Jesus is after the heart more than the amount.

4. Purposeful: Generosity connects our resources to God's work

Paul's collection met a real need among believers in Jerusalem. Scripture points our giving toward three recurring purposes: caring for the poor, supporting the local church, and advancing the gospel to people who have not yet heard. Generosity lets what God placed in our hands to become a blessing in someone else's life.

ENGAGE WITH GOD IN A GROUP

- Who in your life models generosity well? What have you noticed about how they live?
- Which of the four principles comes most naturally to you, and which is the hardest? Why?
- Is generosity something we put first, or something we consider only if there's money left over?
- What regular practice could help generosity become part of our lives?
- Where is God inviting you to invest in his work and meet the needs of others?

BOTTOM LINE

We become generous because a generous Christ has already given us everything and lives within us.