



The Practice of Extravagant Generosity

From Scripture:

Exodus 35:5 – Take from among you an offering to the LORD; let whoever is of a generous heart bring the LORD's offering.

Deuteronomy 16:17 – All shall give as they are able, according to the blessing of the LORD your God that he has given you.

Psalms 24:1 – The earth is the LORD's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it.

Psalms 62:10b – If riches increase, do not set your heart on them.

Proverbs 3:9 – Honor the LORD with your substance and with the first fruits of all your produce.

Proverbs 11:28 – Those who trust in their riches will wither, but the righteous will flourish like green leaves.

Proverbs 21:26 – All day long the wicked covet, but the righteous give and do not hold back

Malachi 3:10 – Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in my house, and thus put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts; see if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing.

Matthew 6:24 – No one can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.

Luke 12:15 – And he said to them, "Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions."

Luke 12:48b – From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required; and from the one to whom much has been entrusted, even more will be demanded.

2 Corinthians 8:1-4 – We want you to know, brothers and sisters, about the grace of God that has been granted to the churches of Macedonia; for during a severe ordeal of affliction, their abundant joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. For, as I can testify, they voluntarily gave according to their means and even beyond their means, begging us earnestly for the privilege of sharing in this ministry to the saints.

2 Corinthians 8:12 – For if the eagerness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has – not according to what one does not have.

2 Corinthians 9:11 – You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity.

1 Timothy 6:7-8 – For we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it; but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these.

Hebrews 13:5 – Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have; for he has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you."

From Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations by Robert Schnase:

p. 106 – [Across the centuries, Christians have discovered] a truth as sure as gravity, that generosity enlarges the soul, realigns priorities, connects people to the Body of Christ, and strengthens congregations to fulfill Christ's ministries.

p. 108 – Giving is central to Jewish and Christian practice because people perceive God as extravagantly generous, the giver of every good gift, the source of life and love. People give because they serve a giving God.

p. 116 – Every sanctuary and chapel in which we have worshiped, every church organ that has lifted our spirits, every pew where we have sat, every communion rail where we have knelt, every hymnal from which we have sung, every praise band that has touched our hearts, every church classroom where we have gathered with our friends, every church kitchen that has prepared our meals, every church van that has taken us to camp, every church camp cabin where we have slept – all are the fruit of someone's Extravagant Generosity. We have been the recipients of grace upon grace. We are the heirs, the beneficiaries of those who came before us who were touched by the generosity of Christ enough to give graciously so that we could experience the truth of Christ for ourselves.

p. 119 – Pledge campaigns are not about money, dollars and budgets but about mission, spiritual growth, and relationship to God.

From Other Sources:

Do your givin' while you are livin' – Then you'll be knowin' where it's goin'.

Your check register is a theological document – it tells you who and what you worship.

The world says, "The more you take, the more you have." Christ says, "The more you give, the more you are." – *Frederick Buechner*

My dog and cat have taught me a great lesson in life: shed a lot. – *Susan Carlson*

You are not here merely to make a living. You are here in order to enable the world to live more amply, with greater vision, with a finer spirit of hope and achievement. You are here to enrich the world, and you impoverish yourself if you forget the errand. – *Woodrow Wilson*

The real measure of your wealth is how much you'd be worth if you lost all your money. – *Bernard Meltzer*

Money-giving is a good criterion of a person's mental health. Generous people are rarely mentally ill people. – *Dr. Karl Menninger*

The more you have, the more you're occupied; the less you have, the more free you are. – *Mother Teresa*

Sixteen of the thirty-eight parables of Jesus deal with money. One out of ten verses in the New Testament deals with that subject. Scripture offers about five hundred verses on prayer, fewer than five hundred on faith, and over two thousand on money. The believer's attitude toward money and possessions is determinative. – *John MacArthur, Jr.*

We buy things we don't even need with money we don't even have to impress people we don't even know. – *Dave Ramsey*

From what we get, we can make a living; what we give, however, makes a life. – *Arthur Ashe*

God has given us two hands – one to receive with and the other to give with.

We are not cisterns made for hoarding; we are channels made for sharing. – *Billy Graham*