

To-Do in 2025: Be Generous

Key Scriptures:

1 Chronicles 29:11—Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything on heaven and earth is yours.

1 Corinthians 6:19b-20—You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.

Luke 12:16-21- And He told them a parable, saying, "The land of a rich man was very productive. "And he began reasoning to himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no place to store my crops?' "Then he said, 'This is what I will do: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. 'And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years to come; take your ease, *eat, drink and be merry.*" "But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your soul is required of you; and now who will own what you have prepared?' "So is the man who stores up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."

Matt. 6:19-21 ¹⁹ "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰ "but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Phil. 2:5-8 ⁵ Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

2 Co. 8:9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.

Key Point: Be Generous

Generosity is the core of the gospel in what Christ did for us.

TALK IT OVER

Start talking: Pick a conversation starter for your group.

- Have you ever had someone give you a gift that was overwhelmingly generous? How did you respond?

Reflect, Think, & Share: Read through the key scriptures as well as Acts 2:42-47, and 4:32-37 and share any observations or questions from the scripture or the sermon with the group.

- What do 1 Chron 21:11, Psalm 24:1-2 & 1 Cor 6:19-20 teach us about God as an owner? If God is the owner, then what is my role? Do I have any rights? What are my responsibilities?
- Who did the early church in Acts 2 & 4 exhibit generosity to others? Why do you think they were so generous?
- In what way is 2 Cor 8:9 speaking about being rich?
- In what ways do you struggle with generosity? What might be holding you back from giving more freely?
- Which has been more important to me over the last month, "building bigger barns" (Luke 12:16-21) or "storing up treasures in heaven" (Matthew 6:19-21)? This last year? Today?
- What does it mean to "lay up treasure in heaven"? How can we actively do this in our daily lives? What kept the rich young ruler in Matthew 19:16-25 from gaining treasure in heaven?

Start doing: Randy Alcorn: "God doesn't raise your income to raise your standard of living, he does it to raise your standard of giving." While the NT doesn't specify what percentage for believers to give back to God, I believe the ground floor is 10%. These are our training wheels. You take off your training wheels when they hinder you. But the NT does give you an order of prioritization in giving.

1. **The Local Church** Gal. 6:6 "And let the one who is taught the word share all good things with him who teaches" (also 1 Tim. 5:17-18)

2. **Missionaries and other Christian orgs** 3 John 1:5-8

3. **Fellow believers in need.** 1 John 3:17 But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?

4. **Unbelievers in need.** Gal. 6:10 ¹⁰ Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.

How is your time, talent and treasure aligned in being generous? Where do you need to adjust?

Prayer Requests. Take some time to pray together. Use the key scriptures as a guide in praying the scriptures back to God.

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