

Wise choices will watch over you. Understanding will keep you safe. Proverbs 2:11 (NLT)

• Our choices declare what is most **important** to us.

14 "So fear the Lord and serve him wholeheartedly. Put away forever the idols your ancestors worshiped when they lived beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt. Serve the Lord alone. 15 But if you refuse to serve the Lord, then choose today whom you will serve... But as for me and my family, we will serve the Lord." Joshua 24:15

I choose to be generous.

And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. Acts 2:44

• Generosity is our response to **God** because it is God's response to **us.**

God's works are so great, worth A lifetime of study—endless enjoyment! Splendor and beauty mark his craft; His generosity never gives out. Psalm 111:2-3 (MSG)

10 <u>This most generous God</u> who gives seed to the farmer that becomes bread for your meals is more than extravagant with you. <u>He gives you something you can then give away</u>, which grows into full-formed lives, robust in God, 11 <u>wealthy in every way</u>, so that you can be generous in every way, producing with us great praise to God. 2 Corinthians 9:10-11 (MSG)

Definition of generosity:

- Willing and lavish in giving to God and others.
- Willing to give more than what is needed.
- Looking to invest in something other than ourselves.

A few things to remember:

• Generosity is our expression of **love** to God.

Watch what God does, and then you do it, like children who learn proper behavior from their parents. What God does is love you. Keep company with him and learn a life of love. Observe how Christ loved us. His love was not cautious but extravagant. He didn't love in order to get something from us but to give everything of himself to us. Love like that. Ephesians 5:1-2 (MSG)

Generosity is about more than money.

It's as the Scriptures say: "The godly man gives generously to the poor. <u>His good deeds will be an honor to him forever.</u>" 2 Corinthians 9:6-9 (TLB)

Generosity will include money.

Jesus says that generosity is:

A <u>heart</u> issue we can't afford to lose.

19 "Don't store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. 21 Wherever your treasure is, there your heart will also be. Matthew 6:19-21 (NLT)

A life issue we can't afford to miss.

23 If you live squinty-eyed in greed and distrust, your body is a dank cellar. If you pull the blinds on your windows, what a dark life you will have! Matthew 6:23 (MSG)

17 Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. 18 Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. 19 In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life. 1 Timothy 6:17-19 (NIV)

• A worship issue we can't afford to waste.

24 "You can't worship two gods at once. Loving one god, you'll end up hating the other. Adoration of one feeds contempt for the other. You can't worship God and Money both. Matthew 6:24 (MSG)

43 Jesus said, "The truth is that this poor widow gave more to the collection than all the others put together. 44 All the others gave what they'll never miss; she gave extravagantly what she couldn't afford - she gave her all." Mark 12:43-44 (MSG)

A strategy for generosity:

Plan your generosity.

But generous people plan to do what is generous, and they stand firm in their generosity. Isaiah 32:8 (NLT)

• Make giving a **priority**

9 Honor GOD with everything you own; give him the first and the best. Proverbs 3:9 (MSG)

• **Start** being generous now.

6 And I am praying that you will <u>put into action the generosity</u> that comes from your faith as you understand and experience all the good things we have in Christ. Philemon 1:6 (NLT)

Learn to invest in eternity.

19 "Don't store up treasures here on earth where they can erode away or may be stolen. 20 Store them in heaven where they will never lose their value and are safe from thieves. 21 If your profits are in heaven, your heart will be there too. Matthew 6:19-21 (TLB)

38 Give away your life; you'll find life given back, but not merely given back—given back with bonus and blessing. Giving, not getting, is the way. Generosity begets generosity." Luke 6:38 (MSG)



TO CREATIVELY LOVE AND LEAD PEOPLE IN A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.

Questions that can be used in Connection Groups:

These questions also work well for personal time with God.

- What scripture and/or point spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Explain.
- Do you believe that generosity is important? Why is generosity important in the life of a Christ follower?
- In your own words how would you tell someone about God's generosity to us?
- How was Jesus generous?
- How is our generosity an expression of love to God?
- How does generosity get expressed in our lives?
- How is generosity a heart issue we can't afford to lose?
- How is generosity a life issue we can't afford to miss?
- How is generosity a worship issue we can't afford to waste?
- How do we plan our generosity?
- What does it mean to you to invest in eternity?

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Today's Talk..



I choose to be generous.

Sunday, January 26th, 2025

