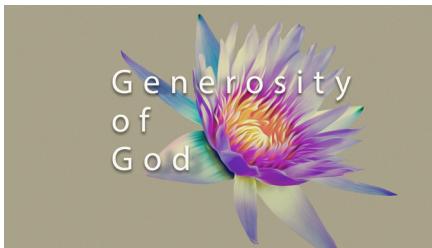


10 EXAMPLES OF GENEROSITY IN THE BIBLE



1. Generous people often give more than they are asked to give.

In Exodus 36:1-7, we see God's people bringing more than enough to meet the need — to the point that Moses must tell them to stop!

2. Generous people give in response to a great cause.

In 2 Corinthians 8-9, we see the Corinthian church giving faithfully to help a community of people whom they have never met!

3. Generous people give out of their substance, whether large or small.

In Luke 21:1-4, Jesus compares the widow's mite to the rich man's gifts — demonstrating that the gifts of all are needed and used in God's economy.

4. Generous people give more than just their money.

In Luke 10:25-37, Jesus tells the classic story of the Good Samaritan — one who gave time, resources, and skill to meet the need of a man who had been left for dead at the side of the road. The Samaritan makes himself vulnerable and available — the very definition of hospitality.

5. Generous people give even when it doesn't make sense.

In Genesis 45, we find Joseph responding graciously and generously to his family, even when logic would tell him not to.

6. Generous people give to help others, even when they differ from one another.

We see it in Luke 7:1-10, as a Gentile builds a Jewish synagogue! Who could have predicted such a donor for such a cause?

7. Generous people give to see the impossible become possible.

A little boy offered Jesus his meager lunch in Matthew 14:14-21. He only had a few loaves and fishes, and Jesus had 5,000 mouths to feed. But gifts in God's hands can be — and often are — divinely multiplied to meet the demands of greater works.

8. Generous people give as a byproduct of their own personal transformation.

The story of Zacchaeus, in Luke 19, is the story of a transformed giver. I love this story: a tax collector forsaking the norm in order to give — moved by Jesus' call to come back to God's ways. This is the story of someone who morphs from "collector of money" to "giver of money"!

9. Generous people give out of their own poverty.

We see it in Luke 21:1-4, again, in Jesus' observations about the widow's mite: "He saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury. He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. 'Truly I tell you,' he said, 'this poor widow has put in more than all the others. All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on.'"

10. Generous people give when others will not.

In Philippians 4:15-16, the apostle Paul laments the lack of response from the churches he's encountered. "Not one church shared with me," he says. "Only you" — the Christians at Philippi. Even when he was ministering to others, far away, in Thessalonica, the Philippians were giving to his ministry!