

GENEROSITY: THE PATHWAY TO REVIVAL



Generosity is part of the way of Royalty.

1Samuel 10:25 Then Samuel explained to the people the behavior of royalty, and wrote *it* in a book and laid *it* up before the LORD. And Samuel sent all the people away, every man to his house. **26** And Saul also went home to Gibeah; and valiant *men* went with him, whose hearts God had touched. **27** But some rebels said, "How can this man save us?" So they despised him, and brought him no presents. But he held his peace.

Generosity is the catalyst to revival.

Malachi 3:8 "Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing Me! But you say, 'How have we robbed You?' In tithes and offerings. **9** "You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing Me, the whole nation of you! **10** "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, and test Me now in this," says the LORD of hosts, "if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows.

King James Version

Malachi 3:10 Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be **meat** in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.

- The word "food" here means "freshly torn prey."
- Fresh revelation comes to a generous heart. We are stingy God withholds revelation from us.
- God says that withholding the tithe is stealing from God.
- Withholding the tithe releases demons to steal from me.
- When I withhold my tithe I can see things (windows) that I can't get to.

Milk here is tied to their immaturity. Meat is for the mature.

KJV 1Corinthians 3:2 I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able.

The tithe was established 400 years before the law.

Genesis 14:19 He blessed him and said, "Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; **20** and blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand." He gave him a tenth of all.

- The tithe was first given by Abraham to honor God. It wasn't required.

The law made tithing official.

Deuteronomy 14:22 "You shall surely tithe all the produce from what you sow, which comes out of the field every year.

The tithe belongs in the storehouse.

Nehemiah 13:12 All Judah then brought the tithe of the grain, wine and oil into the storehouses.

The tithe is given to take care of those who minister to the people.

Numbers 18:21 "To the sons of Levi, behold, I have given all the tithe in Israel for an inheritance, in return for their service which they perform, the service of the tent of meeting.

Jesus ratifies the tithe with the Pharisees.

Luke 11:42 "But woe to you Pharisees! For you pay tithe of mint and rue and every kind of garden herb, and yet disregard justice and the love of God; but these are the things you should have done without neglecting the others.

- Paying tithes won't make up for a bad attitude but if you have a godly attitude you will tithe.

The Elders of the New Testament church were to be paid double the mean average of the congregation.

1 Timothy 5:17 The elders who rule well are to be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who work hard at preaching and teaching.

- Honor in this context is money.
- Double means twice what the tithe would produce.
- Sometimes when travel churches give us an honorarium that actually pays for speaking, and have little to do with honor.

Testimony: Kathy and I gave several hundred dollars to the poor on a Sunday morning after Bill spoke. We got home and someone had given us fifteen thousand dollars. Three weeks later the same thing happened.

Sowing out of need is the way that we break poverty in our lives.

Psalms 126:5 Those who sow in tears shall reap with joyful shouting.**6** He who goes to and fro weeping, carrying his bag of seed, Shall indeed come again with a shout of joy, bringing his sheaves with him.

- The Psalm is telling the story of someone who needs the seed to feed their children, that's why they are sowing with tears.
- If I don't sow seed when I am broke, then I will have no crop for the next season. I have destined myself to poverty, as without a crop I have no income.
- In order to change the economic level of our lives we have to sow when we really do need to eat.
- We need to remember that we are always eating last year's crop.

I gave two hundred dollars to some folks in my office. The Lord returned it by the end of the day through a gift. I was in church the next Sunday and I remembered that, so I got out of twenty dollars for the tithe. Then I went to the restroom and a man was waiting for me with twenty dollars.

The economy of heaven begins with give!

Luke 6:38 "Give, and it will be given to you. They will pour into your lap a good measure—pressed down, shaken together, *and* running over. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return."

The generosity of Mary.

John 12:1 Jesus, therefore, six days before the Passover, came to Bethany where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. **2** So they made Him a supper there, and Martha was serving; but Lazarus was one of those reclining *at the table* with Him. **3** Mary then took a pound of very costly perfume of pure nard, and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped His feet with her hair; and the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. **4** But Judas Iscariot, one of His disciples, who was intending to betray Him, **said*, **5** "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and given to poor *people*?" **6** Now he said this, not because he was concerned about the poor, but because he was a thief, and as he had the money box, he used to pilfer what was put into it. **7** Therefore Jesus said, "Let her alone, so that she may keep it for the day of My burial. **8** "For you always have the poor with you, but you do not always have Me."

- It is not by chance that Judas has no revelation who Jesus. Not only is he not a giver, he is a thief.
- Paupers are motivated only by need.
- Princes don't give out of need but they give out of honor. Honor is a great investment. As a matter of fact, when Kings give to Kings it is important they don't want to give out of need as that would be dishonoring. It would say to the King, "You need me."
- Honor sees things in people that others don't.
- The level of sacrifice that an environment requires determines the size of people who will follow.

Mary on the other hand has the greatest revelation of Christ and she is the most radical giver!

John 20:1 Now on the first *day* of the week Mary Magdalene **came* early to the tomb, while it **was* still dark, and **saw* the stone *already* taken away from the tomb. **2** So she **ran* and **came* to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and **said* to them, "They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him." **3** So Peter and the other disciple went forth, and they were going to the tomb. **4** The two were running together; and the other disciple ran ahead faster than Peter and came to the tomb first; **5** and stooping and looking in, he **saw* the linen wrappings lying *there*; but he did not go in. **6** And so Simon Peter also **came*, following him, and entered the tomb; and he **saw* the linen wrappings lying *there*, **7** and the face-cloth which had been on His head, not lying with the linen wrappings, but rolled up in a place by itself. **8** So the other disciple who had first come to the tomb then also entered, and he saw and believed. **9** For as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that He must rise again from the dead. **10** So the disciples went away again to their own homes. **11** But Mary was standing outside the tomb weeping; and so, as she wept, she stooped and looked into the tomb; **12** and she **saw* two angels in white sitting, one at the head and one at the feet, where the body of Jesus had been lying. **13** And they **said* to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She **said* to them, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him." **14** When she had said this, she turned around and **saw* Jesus standing *there*, and did not know that it was Jesus. **15** Jesus **said* to

her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?" Supposing Him to be the gardener, she *said to Him, "Sir, if you have carried Him away, tell me where you have laid Him, and I will take Him away." **16** Jesus *said to her, "Mary!" She turned and *said to Him in Hebrew, "Rabboni!" (which means, Teacher). **17** Jesus *said to her, "Stop clinging to Me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, 'I ascend to My Father and your Father, and My God and your God.'"

- The disciples see an empty tomb but Mary sees the resurrected Christ.

True riches come to those who use money with Kingdom principle.

Luke 16:10 "He who is faithful in a very little thing is faithful also in much; and he who is unrighteous in a very little thing is unrighteous also in much. **11** "Therefore if you have not been faithful in the *use of* unrighteous wealth, who will entrust the true *riches* to you? **12** "And if you have not been faithful in *the use of* that which is another's, who will give you that which is your own? **13** "No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

- Money is the kindergarten of the kingdom.
- God will not entrust us with the Kingdom until we deal faithfully with money.

The response of God on a generous people.

Malachi 4:1 "For behold, the day is coming, burning like a furnace; and all the arrogant and every evildoer will be chaff; and the day that is coming will set them ablaze," says the LORD of hosts, "so that it will leave them neither root nor branch." **2** "But for you who fear My name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings; and you will go forth and skip about like calves from the stall. **3** "You will tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet on the day which I am preparing," says the LORD of hosts. **4** Remember the law of Moses My servant, *even the* statutes and ordinances which I commanded him in Horeb for all Israel. **5** "Behold, I am going to send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and terrible day of the LORD. **6** "He will restore the hearts of the fathers to *their* children and the hearts of the children to their fathers, so that I will not come and smite the land with a curse."

- Healing in wings
- Authority over the wicked
- Prophetic ministry restored
- Families restored
- The curse over nations broken

Cornelius built a memorial in Heaven by his giving.

Acts 10:1 Now there was a man at Caesarea named Cornelius, a centurion of what was called the Italian cohort, **2** a devout man and one who feared God with all his household, and gave many alms to the Jewish people and prayed to God continually. **3** About the ninth hour of the day he clearly saw in a vision an angel of God who had just come in and said to him, "Cornelius!" **4** And fixing his gaze on him and being much alarmed, he said, "What is it, Lord?" And he said to him, "Your prayers and alms have ascended as a memorial before God."

- When we give to God, we build a memorial in Heaven that causes God to remember us when he looks at our pile of stones.

We are to live according to His riches not ours.

Philippians 4:19 And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

- Whenever we work for provision instead of working for God we relegated our income to what we can do.
- When we work for God and still live by faith then we can live in the economy of Heaven.

Sometimes when you ask someone what they do for a living they will tell you they are living by faith. That means, in "Christianese" that they don't have a job. When we work we still need to live by faith in our finances otherwise we relegate our income to our labor instead of His blessings.

We are to have two professions, one for ourselves and one for our money. In one profession we work for money and in the other money works for us.

Some people own houses and some houses own people.

Apostolic giving causes the congregation to lay their money at the Apostle's feet.

Acts 4:32 The congregation of those who believed were of one heart and soul; and not one of them claimed that anything belonging to him was his own, but all things were common property to them. **33** And with great power the apostles were giving testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and abundant grace was upon them all. **34** For there was not a needy person among them, for all who were owners of land or houses would sell them and bring the proceeds of the sales **35** and lay them at the apostles' feet, and they would be distributed to each as any had need.

- People saw the need around them but they didn't give directly to the need. Instead, they trusted the apostles more than they trust themselves to distribute the money.
- Honor and trust are at the core of Kingdom finances.

The story of the round to rectangle table.

Ephesians 6:2 HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER (which is the first commandment with a promise).

The rectangle table.

Luke 14:8 "When you are invited by someone to a wedding feast, do not take the place of honor, for someone more distinguished than you may have been invited by him, **9** and he who invited you both will come and say to you, 'Give *your* place to this man,' and then in disgrace you proceed to occupy the last place. **10** "But when you are invited, go and recline at the last place, so that when the one who has invited you comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will have honor in the sight of all who are at the table with you. **11** "For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

- Honor causes life to flow.
- Take away the seat of honor and death results.

The only person killed in the church by the Holy Spirit was executed over an offering.

Acts 5:1 But a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property, **2** and kept back some of the price for himself, with his wife's full knowledge, and bringing a portion of it, he laid it at the apostles' feet. **3** But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back some of the price of the land? **4** "While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not under your control? Why is it that you have conceived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God." **5** And as he heard these words, Ananias fell down and breathed his last; and great fear came over all who heard of it. **6** The young men got up and covered him up, and after carrying him out, they buried him. **7** Now there elapsed an interval of about three hours, and his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. **8** And Peter responded to her, "Tell me whether you sold the land for such and such a price?" And she said, "Yes, that was the price." **9** Then Peter said to her, "Why is it that you have agreed together to put the Spirit of the Lord to the test? Behold, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out as well." **10** And immediately she fell at his feet and breathed her last, and the young men came in and found her dead, and they carried her out and buried her beside her husband.

Share our testimony about owing 1.5 million dollars and talking to the elders about bankruptcy.