

MATTHEW 25:31-46(NLTSE)

- Generosity is a character trait of those who have inherited salvation. Thankfulness is the stepping stone to generosity.
- We've been speaking about being thankful and learning the secret of being thankful even in times of lack.
- We looked at five factors that can help us be thankful even in lack:
 1. Understanding what's really important for where we are currently at in our lives.
 2. Focusing on things above while still being grounded
 3. Understanding the difference between joy and happiness
 4. Ensuring that your spirit is stronger than your flesh
 5. Jesus Christ is the only enabler who can make grateful in lack
- Thankfulness is the first step towards **Godly generosity**.
- We know that salvation is not earned, but in our study passage of scripture, Jesus clearly illustrates that those who inherit salvation, most certainly exhibit **Godly generosity**.
- Jesus basically says that those who go to heaven versus those who go to hell, can be differentiated by who was generous and who was not!!!
- We're calling this **"Godly generosity"** because there is a difference between scattering seed and sowing seed.
- Scattering is throwing finances at situations without much heartfelt thought or concern for the needs of the people. Something like soothing our prickling consciences.
- Mankind does not have the solution for poverty. Jesus said so:
JOHN 12:8(NLTSE) You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me.”
- Even when God was miraculously letting water flow from rocks, providing so much meat it came out of their nostrils, clothes were never wearing out and God was following them with pillars of smoke and fire, there was still poor amongst His people. Why was this??
- Sowing seed involves prayerful consideration and seeking Godly wisdom as to where to sow the finances God has entrusted you with
- Poverty is not a lack of money but the symptom of a condition of the heart.
- Jesus did not give money to everybody who asked of Him.
- Givers have to set limits because takers seldom do.
- We've no obligation to give to those who refuse to work, or to those who steal from God.
- Welfare was never meant to reward slothfulness.
- We have a responsibility to give **as well** as to teach accountability:

DEUTERONOMY 15:7-8(NLTSE) 7 “ But if there are any poor Israelites in your towns when you arrive in the land the LORD your God is giving you, do not be hard-hearted or tightfisted toward them. 8 Instead, be generous and **lend** them whatever they need”

PSALM 37:21(NLTSE) The **wicked borrow and never repay**, but the godly are generous givers.

PSALM 37:26(NLTSE) The godly always give generous **loans** to others, and their children are a blessing

- This principle teaches accountability and stewardship
- It teaches that God is the source, not people.
- When we learn to be thankful, we learn to be generous.

- God wants us to learn these principles so that we can all be like Him, ie. generous givers

- God expressed His love in the greatest way possible by giving:

JOHN 3:16(NLTSE) “For God loved the world so much that **He gave** His one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life.

CARE GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Besides giving money, in what other ways can generosity be expressed?
2. What did Jesus mean when He said the poor will **always** be amongst us?
3. What conditions in our hearts could cause the symptom of poverty or a poverty mindset?