

How much of his wealth did he commit to give? Do you know anyone who gives away so much that it lowers their lifestyle or status? Why do they do it?

How do you explain the emotion Zacchaeus feels as he tells Jesus what he plans to do with his money?

How do you feel when you give? Do you ever feel relieved or giddy?

What did Zacchaeus' giving demonstrate, according to Jesus? (v. 9) In what ways does our giving to church and to the needy express our salvation?

REFLECT

"Don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. 'For God loves a person who gives cheerfully.' God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others. As the Scriptures say, 'They share freely and give generously to the poor. Their good deeds will be remembered forever.' For God ... will provide and increase your resources and then produce a great harvest of generosity in you." 2 Corinthians 9:7-10

RESPOND

Each morning this week ask God for an opportunity to be generous in some small, simple way. Share what you learn from this experiment with others.



Generous people are detached enough from their possessions that they are able to gladly give them away while also recognizing the power in the giving.

Generosity flows from our right ideas about God.

1 Timothy 6:17

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.

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Randy Alcorn in *The Treasure Principle*  
As long as I have something, I believe I own it. But when I give it away, I relinquish control, power, and prestige. At the moment of release the light turns on. The magic spell is broken. My mind clears. I recognize God as owner, my self as servant, and others as intended beneficiaries of what God has entrusted to me.

Generosity is fueled by our devotion to God.

1 Timothy 6:18

Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share.

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outlookchurch.org  
317.823.6815

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Hudson Taylor, pioneer missionary to China  
*The less I spent on myself and the more I gave to others, the fuller of happiness and blessing did my soul become.*

Faithful giving is part of faithful living. We have a responsibility to be generous.

**Luke 12:48**

**From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.**

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**Generosity is really a gift from God.**

**1 Timothy 6:19**

**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.**

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Andy Stanley in *Visioneering*  
Accumulating money or stuff is a vision of sorts. But it is the kind of vision that leaves people wondering. Wondering if there was more. Wondering what they could have done—should have done—with their brief stay on this little ball of dirt.

**Acts 20:35**

**...remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'**

# LIVING OUT A THEOLOGY OF generosity

## Life Group Study

### RELATE

Which of the following motivate you to give generously?

- |                |                           |                        |
|----------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Seeing a need  | Guilt                     | Gratitude              |
| Recognition    | Relationship              | Having plenty yourself |
| Responsibility | "Can't take it with you." |                        |

What example of generosity, small or large, has inspired you to be generous?

What principle, insight or idea from this sermon was especially important for you?

### READ

Luke 19:1-10 Zacchaeus meets Jesus

What does the text say about Zacchaeus' status and reputation in Jericho? How had he gotten wealthy? (v. 2, 7-8)

How do you explain Zacchaeus' eagerness to see Jesus?

Did Jesus command Zacchaeus to give his money away? What do you think motivated Zacchaeus to do so?

How does Zacchaeus' response demonstrate a change in his allegiance? What must he have believed about Jesus?

To what two groups of people did Zacchaeus promise to give? Why did he include the poor?