

Introduction - Living Generously

August 13, 2025



Craig Smith • Introduction • August 17, 2025

A generous life is the blessed life...

A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed. (Prov. 11:25)

In Luke 12 Jesus teaches us a story about generosity...

We all tend to expect generosity from others - *"Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me?" (Luke 12:13)*

• **Generous living requires personal contentment** - *"Jesus replied, 'Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?' Then he said to them, 'Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.'" (Luke 12:14-15)*

But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that." (1 Tim. 6:6-8)

• **Generous living recognizes God's provision** - *"The ground of a certain rich man produced a good crop." (Luke 12:16)*

It's all God's to give - *"Who has a claim against me that I must pay? Everything under heaven belongs to me." (Job 41:11)*

When we fail to see God's generosity in our lives we become...

- Self-reliant - *"He thought to himself, 'What shall I do?'" (Luke 12:17a)*
- Self-indulgent - *"This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I'll say to myself, 'You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink, and be merry.'" (Luke 12:18-19)*
- **Generous living realizes** eternity's certainty - *"But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?'" (Luke 12:20)*
- **Generous living re-defines** "wealth" - *"This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God." (Luke 12:21)**

*"For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich."
(2 Cor. 8:9)*