

This is Who We Are Part 5

Multiply

Intro: *We've been in a series focused on our core value **We practice gratefulness and generosity in everything we do.** This is all about you walking in God's very best for your life and generosity has always been His plan.* **GENEROUS: arranging my life around the thrill of being used by God to make a difference.**

Isaiah 32:8 (NLT)

But generous people plan to do what is generous, and they stand firm in their generosity.

- Some people are number people. You don't really hear anything else until there's a number put on it. Ex. It may sound like a great idea, vacation, or plan but how much will it cost? How long will it take? What time does it start?
- Multiplication is better than addition and our God is not only an adder but a multiplier of resources
- Would it be okay if God multiplied your resources???

God is not only an adder, but also a multiplier of our resources.

Luke 9:12-17 (TPT)

¹² As the day wore on, the Twelve came to Jesus and told him, "It's getting late. You should send the crowds away to the surrounding villages and farms to get something to eat and find shelter for the night. There's nothing to eat here in the middle of nowhere." ¹³ Jesus responded, "You have the food to feed them." They replied, "All we have are these five small loaves of bread and two dried fish. Do you really expect us to go buy food for all these people?" ¹⁴ There are nearly five thousand men here, with women and children besides!" He told his disciples, "Have them all sit down in groups of fifty each." ¹⁵⁻¹⁶ After everyone was seated, Jesus took the five loaves and two fish, and gazing into the heavenly realm he gave thanks for the food. Then, in the presence of his disciples, he broke off pieces of bread and fish, and kept giving more to each disciple to give to the crowd. It was multiplying before their eyes! ¹⁷ So everyone ate until they were filled, and afterward the disciples gathered up the leftovers—it came to exactly twelve baskets full!

Put Yourself in the Story:

Imagine you are in this story and you are part of the Messiah search committee...you've found a good prospect; His name is Jesus. Jesus just kept teaching...**Vs. 12** *As the day wore on*, You and some friends got the bright idea that the "people" were probably hungry. You interrupt His teaching to ask about food. Jesus let's wrap it up. Jesus responded, **Vs. 13** *"You have the food to feed them."* Jesus turns it back on you. You start looking and find a boy with a to-go meal from Captain D's (2-piece fish dinner with extra rolls) and report back to Jesus that it's all you could find. Had you never heard this story it would have made logical sense to dismiss the service when there was over 7-20K people and one fish dinner. (Tithing doesn't make sense. Doing it

God's way doesn't make sense. It doesn't have to make sense to be God's way. But it works.) Jesus tells you guys to separate the people into groups and you might think it's like the OT story in 2 Kings where Elijah fed 100 men with 20 loaves of bread; but Jesus does it differently. **Vs. 16** *Jesus took the five loaves and two fish and gazing into the heavenly realm he gave thanks for the food. Then, in the presence of his disciples, he broke off pieces of bread and fish, and kept giving more to each disciple to give to the crowd.* Now you're only holding a piece and He tells you to give it away. You might have asked Jesus to pray some more. Or, you would tell the people to take just a small piece. But to your surprise, a crumb grows into more. After you gave the first to Jesus and He blessed it, the rest multiplied.

2 Multiplication Principles (Motive)

1. It Has to Be Blessed Before It Can Multiply

- What would have happened had the disciples given it out before Jesus blessed it? It wouldn't have multiplied!
 - This begins with TRUST. They had to trust Jesus had a plan. All of this comes down to me trusting that He has a plan for my finances.
 - The way our finances are blessed is through the tithe
 - We bring our first and best to the Lord
 - Heb 7: Jesus receives and blesses our tithe
 - Many people give but it isn't blessed and doesn't have the potential to multiply because it wasn't the first (tithe)
 - The amount? 10% The portion? The part that leaves your hand first.

2. It Has to Be Given Away Before It Can Multiply

- What if the disciples had eaten it after Jesus blessed? It wouldn't have multiplied!
 - There are people who's finances are blessed but they never see it multiply because they never give it away.
 - The way our finances multiply is through giving
 - We bring (return) the tithe and give over and above to the Kingdom

Multiplication Promise (Result)

Vs. 17

¹⁷So everyone ate until they were filled, and afterward the disciples gathered up the leftovers—it came to exactly twelve baskets full!

2 Corinthians 9:10 (TPT)

¹⁰This generous God who supplies abundant seed for the farmer, which becomes bread for our meal, is even more extravagant toward you. First he supplies every need, plus more. Then he multiplies the seed as you sow it, so that the harvest of your generosity will grow.

- Am I eating what I should be giving?
- If it doesn't meet the need, it could be seed
- Why does He multiply? So, you can have more? No. So we can be MORE generous
- God doesn't give us more so that we can increase our level of living but so we can increase our level of giving.
- WE are tunnels, not Tupperware. You can contain it, but His blessing will be limited to the container. Be a tunnel and the blessings keep flowing

1. More Than Enough for the Giver and Receiver

- Kingdom investment brings a Kingdom return
- We want to be generous but when fear there will be enough. We'd like to give but we might do without
- We are doing the wrong math. It doesn't add up when God multiplies!
- Live to give instead of living to get
- God wants to give us a Kingdom perspective for our finances

Generosity Plan:

God is a God of order and He only blesses what is in order.

1. TITHE it

- Bring to God what's God's
- 90 Day tithing challenge

2. PAY it

- Get out of debt
- Spending more than you make invites disorder into other areas
- Don't manipulate- you can't drop hints and expect God to provide

3. SAVE it

- Emergency Fund, Retirement, Medical

4. GIVE it

- Tithing isn't giving, it's returning
- How will I know when and where? He'll tell you.