

Make it Count

Consistent Generosity

Matthew 6:19-24

It seems there's always a measure of grief involved in giving, but that's not the way God intended our generosity to feel. In fact, it's supposed to be just the opposite!

"Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion for God loves a cheerful giver." **2 Corinthians 9:7**

You don't have to be rich to be generous; you have to be generous to be generous.

Main Idea: Consistent Generosity Counts in Making a Lasting Difference

"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money." **Matthew 6:19-24**

Four Truths about Consistent Generosity from Matthew 6:19-24

I. Consistent Generosity Will Last Forever – Vs. 19-20

"I have held many things in my hands and I have lost them all. But whatever I have placed in God's hands, that I still possess." **Martin Luther**

Jesus commands his followers to consistently invest (weekly, monthly, annually) into the eternal kingdom of God because it will never be taken away.

II. Consistent Generosity Affects Your Heart – Vs. 21

Jesus explains what is at stake with wealth. It's NOT that your money will follow your heart, it's that your HEART will FOLLOW YOUR MONEY into what matters most!!!

"He (Moses) considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward." **Hebrews 11:26**

"Show me your bank statement, & I'll show you where your heart is." **Paraphrase**

III. Consistent Generosity Changes Your Perspective – Vs. 22-23

Jesus notes that selfishness, stinginess, and greed are symptoms of a faulty way of looking at life.

"Whoever has a bountiful eye will be blessed, for he shares his bread with the poor." **Proverbs 22:9**

IV. Consistent Generosity Is an Act of Worship – Vs. 24

"Gain and godliness cannot both be masters of our souls: we can serve two, but not 'two masters.' You can live for this world, or live for the next; but to live equally for both is impossible. Where God reigns, the lust of gain must go." **Charles H. Spurgeon**

"You cannot serve God and money." Jesus

Jesus is talking about making it count & taking the grief out of giving. This happens as we realize that consistent generosity will last forever, affects your heart, changes your perspective, and is an act of worship. Once we see it this way, the grief melts away.

Three types of giving: Consistent, Excess, & Impulse.

Average Budget	Generous Budget
Monthly Income	Monthly Income
-	-
Expenses	Consistent Generosity (percentage)
-	-
Savings	Expenses
-	-
Occasional Charity	Savings
-	-
	Excess and Impulse Giving

As a disciple of Christ, my consistent generosity belongs to the local church. Here's why:

- **Informed, Coordinated Efforts:** As described in Acts 4 & 6, a local church is uniquely positioned to meet needs in the community while involving its members..
- **Diversification:** A local church not only addresses needs, it also advances the four-fold mission of God: evangelism, discipleship, mercy, & justice.
- **Worship:** Giving is an act of worship, and your church is where you worship.
- **Personal Benefit:** Weddings/funerals/kids/students/family ministries, sports, etc.
- **Personal Opportunity:** You get to be involved in your investment.
- **Accountability:** Members get a view, voice, and vote on how the church spends. Also, you have access to pastors, staff, elders, and others to ask questions.

Reflect on the lavish generosity of God. In Christ, God has been good to you. By grace, God continues to be consistently generous to you. It is his generosity to us that motivates our generosity to him!

"If indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good." 1 Peter 2:3

Sources & Further Reading Opportunities:

- *CSB Study Bible* – Ed. Trevin Wax (2017)
- *The Treasure Principle* – Randy Alcorn (2001)
- *How to Be Rich* – Andy Stanley (2013)
- *The Eternity Portfolio* – Alan Gotthardt (2015)
- *The Bible Exposition Commentary* – Warren Wiersbe (1996)
- *Tony Evans Study Bible* – Tony Evans (2019)
- *NAC: Matthew* – Craig Bloomberg (1992)
- *The Gospel of the Kingdom* – Charles H. Spurgeon (1893)