

THE BLESSED LIFE | Week 3

Am I Generous?

John 12:1–6 (NKJV) ¹ Then, six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was who had been dead, whom He had raised from the dead. ² There they made Him a supper; and Martha served, but Lazarus was one of those who sat at the table with Him. ³ Then Mary took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard, anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil. ⁴ But one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, who would betray Him, said, ⁵ "Why was this fragrant oil not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" ⁶ This he said, not that he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief, and had the money box; and he used to take what was put in it. ⁷ But Jesus said, "Let her alone; she has kept this for the day of My burial. ⁸ For the poor you have with you always, but Me you do not have always."

1. The Enemy of Generosity

- a. The enemy of generosity is selfishness.
- b. We are born selfish; we are born again generous.
- c. God tests us to give us an opportunity to pass.

2. The Extravagance of Generosity

- a. Can you give a gift that will impress God?
- b. 2 Corinthians 8:5 (NKJV)
- c. Three levels of giving:
 - i. Tithes
 - ii. Offerings
 - iii. Extravagant offerings

3. The Reward of Generosity

- a. Mark 14:9 (NKJV)
- b. Grateful people are generous.
- c. Generosity is when you give expecting nothing in return.
- d. Hebrews 11:6 (NKJV)
- e. God rewards the attitude of our hearts, not the amount we give.

DISCUSS & APPLY

These questions can be used for personal study and/or in a Small Group format. We'd love to hear how you are putting them to use, so let us know at smallgroups@mannachurch.org.

1. This week's message was titled, "Am I Generous?" Do you think this is an important question to ask ourselves? Why or why not?
2. What are some of the characteristics of a generous person? What are some of the challenges we face when it comes to being generous?
3. What is the most extravagant gift you have ever received? How did you feel about the giver after you received this gift, and how did you respond?
4. Pastor Robert said the most extravagant gift we can give God is ourselves. Do you agree or disagree? What does this look like for you on a personal day-to-day level?
5. Think about the talents, gifts, abilities, and position God has given you. How might you be able to use these to bless someone in an extravagant way? For example, if you are an accountant, an extravagant gift might be helping a single mom or a widow with their taxes. If you're a stay-at-home mom, an extravagant gift might be playing and engaging with your kids in extra special ways. Take time to discuss ideas with the group, then commit to doing one.