

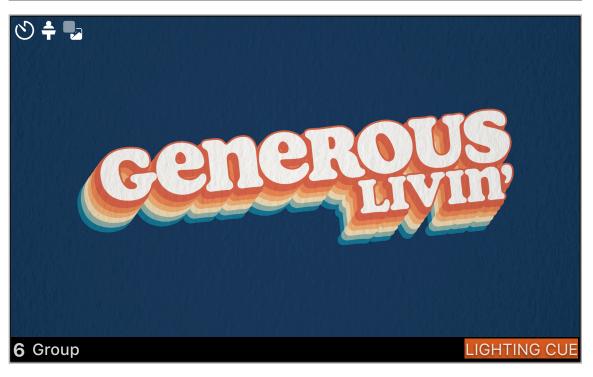




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JESUS' VISION OF THE GOOD LIFE.

'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'

Acts 20:35 (CSB)

9

Blessed = makarion (happy, fortunate)

"The more generous Americans are, the more happiness, health, and purpose and life they enjoy".

The Paradox of Generosity by Christian Smith and Hilary Davidson

11

"Generosity is a willingness to give or share with others in need. It could refer to time, money, effort, skills or other rewards."

Joby Martin

22 Then he said to his disciples, "Therefore I tell you, don't worry about your life, what you will eat; or about the body, what you will wear. 23 For life is more than food and the body more than clothing.

13

24 Consider the ravens: They don't sow or reap; they don't have a storeroom or a barn; yet God feeds them. Aren't you worth much more than the birds? 25 Can any of you add one moment to his life span by worrying?

26 If then you're not able to do even a little thing, why worry about the rest? 27 "Consider how the wildflowers grow: They don't labor or spin thread. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was adorned like one of these.

15

28 If that's how God clothes the grass, which is in the field today and is thrown into the furnace tomorrow, how much more will he do for you—you of little faith? 29 Don't strive for what you should eat and what you should drink, and don't be anxious.

30 For the Gentile world eagerly seeks all these things, and your Father knows that you need them.
31 "But seek his kingdom, and these things will be provided for you.

Luke 12:22-31

17

We are people of love when we are generous.

16 This is how we have come to know love: He laid down his life for us. We should also lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. 17 If anyone has this world's goods and sees a fellow believer in need but withholds compassion from him—how does God's love reside in him?

19

18 Little children, let us not love in word or speech, but in action and in truth.

1 John 3:16-18

JESUS' WARNINGS ABOUT WEALTH

21

Now the one sown among the thorns—this is one who hears the word, but the worries of this age and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.

Matthew 13:22

"Watch out and be on guard against all greed, because one's life is not in the abundance of his possessions."

Luke 12:15

23

9 But those who want to be rich fall into temptation, a trap, and many foolish and harmful desires, which plunge people into ruin and destruction. 10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and by craving it, some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

1 Timothy 6:9-10

19 "Don't store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal. 20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves don't break in and steal.

25

21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. 22 "The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light.

23 But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. So if the light within you is darkness, how deep is that darkness! 24 No one can serve two masters, since either he will hate one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

Matthew 6:19-24

27

"Financial issues are spiritual issues because they reveal who's really in charge of your life – of who and whose you are." Andy Stanley

JESUS' EXTRAVAGANT GRACE

29

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

James 1:17

For God loved the world in this way: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16

31

Why Are We Talking About This?

JESUS' VISION OF THE GOOD LIFE

33

JESUS' WARNINGS ABOUT WEALTH

JESUS' EXTRAVAGANT GRACE

35

9 He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and looked down on everyone else: 10 "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector.

11 The Pharisee was standing and praying like this about himself: 'God, I thank you that I'm not like other people—greedy, unrighteous, adulterers, or even like this tax collector.

37

12 I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of everything I get.' 13 "But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even raise his eyes to heaven but kept striking his chest and saying, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner!'

14 I tell you, this one went down to his house justified rather than the other, because everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

Luke 18:9-14