

3-12-2016, COTR Texarkana

Title: Selfish and Stingy or Generous?

Purpose: Provoke people to be generous and share with people in need.

Spiritual Truth: Am I generous, sharing person or am I a selfish, stingy hoarder?

Text: Acts 20:34-35

Topic: Generosity, Stingy, Giving, Selfish

Series: What's Inside?

Series Purpose: Provoke people to develop godly character and personal values that reflect a Biblical worldview.

## **Selfish and Stingy or Generous?**

### **I. Introduction**

- A. I'm concluding the series, **What's Inside?** Easter I'll begin a new series called, **Heroes**
  - A.1. Listen to messages @ChurchOnTheRock.org or on the COTR iPhone/ Android app
  - A.2. The last few weeks we've been talking about character and values. Each week we contrasted a godly character attribute with a worldly or fleshly one.
- B. **Today's message is entitled, "Selfish and Stingy or Generous?" We'll ask ourselves the question, Am I generous, sharing person or am I a selfish, stingy hoarder?**
- C. **Acts 20:34–35 (NIV)** You yourselves know that these hands of mine have supplied my own needs and **the needs of my companions**. 35 In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must **help the weak**, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: **'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'** ”
  - C.1. Paul didn't just work for his needs but he made money to share with people in need. He was generous. This isn't a message about giving in church. It's a message about being generous, sharing and helping people as a way of life.
- D. **Def. generous:** to be unselfish and meet the needs of others. The free and liberal bestowal of wealth, possessions or food to people.
- E. **Def. stingy:** to be miserly and hoard, refusing to share what I have with others; to hold on tight to my money and possessions and give the very smallest amount possible.
- F. **We'll look at an OT story about a husband and wife, Nabal and Abigail.** Nabal was a stingy, greedy and selfish man. Abigail was an e.g. of unselfish generosity and sharing.
- G. **Purpose: Provoke people to be generous and share with people in need.**
- H. **Spiritual Truth: Am I generous, sharing person or am I a selfish, stingy hoarder?**

### **II. Nabal: an example of a stingy, greedy and selfish man**

A. **Context: 1 Samuel 25 (NLT)** ...David moved down to the wilderness of Maon. 2 There was a **wealthy man** from Maon who owned property near the town of Carmel. He had 3,000 sheep and 1,000 goats...3 This man's name was Nabal, and his wife, Abigail, was a sensible and beautiful woman. But **Nabal... was crude and mean in all his dealings.** 4...David...5 sent ten of his young men...with this message for Nabal...7 I am told that it is sheep-shearing time. While your shepherds stayed among us near Carmel, we never harmed them, and nothing was ever stolen from them...So **would you be kind to us... Please share any provisions** you might have on hand with us and with your friend David..."...10 "Who is this fellow David?" Nabal sneered to the young men...11 **Should I take my bread and my water and my meat** that I've slaughtered for my shearers **and give it to a band of outlaws** who come from who knows where?"

A.1. Their protection from the attacks of the marauding border tribes or wild beasts creates a claim for some kind of tribute, supplies of food and necessities, which is usually given with good will and gratitude; but when withheld, is enforced as a right. Nabal's refusal, therefore, was a violation of an established practice.

A.2. The Bible has an answer to his ? : Pr 11:24–25 (NLT) Give freely and become more wealthy; **be stingy and lose everything.** 25 The generous will prosper; those who (*NCV help*) others will themselves be (*NCV helped*).

B. **Nabal was a selfish, greedy man and suffered for it. Jesus talked about selfishness and greed. Luke 12:15–21 (NLT)** Then he said, "Beware! Guard against every kind of **greed.** Life is not measured by how much you own." 16 Then he told them a story: "A rich man had a fertile farm that produced fine crops. 17 He said to himself, '**What should I do?** I don't have room for all my crops.' 18 Then he said, 'I know! **I'll tear down my barns and build bigger ones...** 19 And I'll sit back and say to myself...you have enough stored away for years to come. Now take it easy! Eat, drink, and be merry! 20 "But God said to him, 'You fool! You will die this very night. Then who will get everything you worked for?' 21 "Yes, a person is a fool to store up earthly wealth but not have a rich relationship with God."

B.1. He asked a question, too. What should I do with my prosperity? He was greedy and chose to be selfish and lost it all. He should have listened to Jesus' advice: Matthew 6:19–20 (MSG) "**Don't hoard treasure down here** where it gets eaten by moths and corroded by rust or—worse!—stolen by burglars. 20 **Stockpile treasure in heaven,** where it's safe from moth and rust and burglars.

B.2. We stockpile in heaven by being generous and sharing. "A rich relationship with God" implies he should have been generous and shared with others.

C. Nabal and the man who built bigger barns speak to us today. Stingy, selfish people only enjoy their wealth for a little while. Those who are generous and share with others are blessed in this life and the one to come.

### III. Abigail: an example of unselfish generosity and sharing

- A. **Verse 14**...one of Nabal's servants went to Abigail and told her, "David sent messengers ...to greet our master, but **he screamed insults at them**. 15 **These men have been very good to us**...17 You need to...figure out what to do, for there is going to be trouble...18 Abigail wasted no time. **She quickly gathered 200 loaves of bread**, two wineskins full of wine, five sheep that had been slaughtered, nearly a bushel of roasted grain, 100 clusters of raisins, and 200 fig cakes. She packed them on donkeys... 20 As she was riding her donkey...she saw David and his men coming toward her...27 **here is a present** that I, your servant, have brought to you and your young men. (*Finish story*)
- B. **Abigail applied Biblical principles. Proverbs 22:9 (NIV)** The **generous** will themselves be blessed, for **they share their food** with the poor. Matthew 5:42 (NLT) **Give to those who ask**, and don't turn away from those who want to borrow.
- C. **God has always wanted His people to help people in need.**
- C.1. OT: Deut 15:7-8 (NLT) if there are any poor Israelites...when you arrive in the land the LORD your God is giving you, **do not be hard-hearted or tightfisted** toward them. 8 Instead, **be generous and lend** them whatever they need.
- C.2. NT Context: Acts 4:32-33 (MSG) The whole congregation of believers was united as one...They didn't even claim ownership of their own possessions. **No one said, "That's mine; you can't have it." They shared everything**...
- C.3. Jesus taught us to take care of needy people. Luke 10:33-35 (NLT) "Then a despised Samaritan came along, and when he saw the man, he felt compassion for him. 34 Going over to him, the Samaritan soothed his wounds with olive oil and wine and bandaged them. Then he put the man on his own donkey and took him to an inn, where he took care of him. 35 The next day he handed the innkeeper two silver coins, telling him, 'Take care of this man. **If his bill runs higher than this, I'll pay you the next time I'm here.**'
- C.3.a It seems like caring and sharing has always been God's plan for His people.  
Lord help me live like this.
- D. **The Bible calls helping people hospitality.** Def. entertaining strangers or guests without reward; to show kindness and generosity in meeting needs of people.
- D.1. Ro 12:13 (NIV) **Share** with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.
- D.2. Hebrews 13:2 (NIV) Do not forget to show **hospitality to strangers**, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.
- E. **Video collage: Random Acts of Kindness**

#### IV. Conclusion

- A. **1 Timothy 6:17–18 (NLT)** Teach those who are rich in this world not to be proud and not to trust in their money, which is so unreliable. Their trust should be in God, who richly gives us all we need for our enjoyment. 18 Tell them to use their money to do good. They should be rich in good works and **generous to those in need, always being ready to share with others.**

A.1. I can't tell you how much to share but I can encourage you to be an unselfish, generous person. Jesus told us there was a greater blessing in giving than receiving.

#### V. Response

- A. **Give away \$2,000 to people to share with somebody in need.**
- B. **Prayer**
- C. **Souls**
- A. *\*\*\* Logos Bible Software and library, Dictionary of Bible Themes, Merriam-Webster's collegiate dictionary, Commentary Critical and Explanatory on the Whole Bible were used to prepare this message.*