

Generosity at Work

With insights from Mary Andringa of Vermeer Corporation

Video Notes

Discussion Questions

What are your takeaways from this video? What impacted you the most? Any pangs of guilt due to a lack of generosity?

Unconventional Approach: Be Generous

Proverbs 11:25 *“A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.”*

Definition of Generosity: Showing a readiness to give more of something, as money or time, than is strictly necessary or expected.

- 1. **Proverbs 3:9-10** tells us *“Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.”* **Can you explain the paradox of gaining more when you give things away?**

- 2. **In Luke 6:38** Jesus says, *“Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”* **Rick mentioned that God gives according to the proportion you give, have you experienced this first-hand or seen it in someone else’s life?**

- 3. **Rick mentioned that being generous will also help us to have more friends. Proverbs 19:6** shares that *“Many seek the favor of a generous man, and everyone is a friend to a man who gives gifts.”* **While this may seem obvious, looking at the lives of the financially stingy can often show a very clear picture of someone lacking friends because they are usually quite stingy with everything, including a kind word (think Scrooge). Are there examples of generous people in your life? Were they generous in more than finances? If so, how were they generous?**

Action Steps

Rick outlined the following practical ways in which we can be generous:

- A. Give of Your **Time** | Maybe God has already placed upon your heart where you can give your time that will be a blessing to someone in need. Who comes to mind?

- B. Give of Your **Talent** | As Rick mentioned, God has blessed you with skills and talents. Who might be a person or organization that could use your help?

- C. Give of Your **Treasure** | God has blessed all of us with finances, some more than others, but He wants us all to be obedient and share to those in need. While this might stretch your comfort level, trust that God will provide for you also. Prayer for the Lord to bring someone to mind.

Briefly journal what God might be putting into your heart about giving of your time, talent and treasure:

Mary Andringa's Story

1. When it comes to generosity in business, what are your takeaways from Mary's interview?

2. What example particularly spoke to you?

Going Deeper

How to Become Generous

As a reminder, Rick shared these thoughts on changing and becoming a generous person.

- 1. **Change Your Worldview – Hebrews 11:6** says, *“And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.”*
 - a. God owns it all and He expects us to be generous.
 - b. When we obey God, our obedience comes with a reward.

- 2. **Additionally, he tells us that if we practice being generous that God will bless that step of faith and begin revealing the paradox.**

- 3. **Lastly, he tells us to take a step of faith beyond what is comfortable.**

Journal what God might be placing on your heart regarding generosity. Affirmations of your generosity that have pleased Him. Changes he is asking you to make to become more generous.

Devotional Time

This section is an extension of the above materials and is designed for a deeper study/devotion on your own. The Bible is the best resource that can be used to guide our personal and business lives in order to glorify God. In this segment, you will be provided a scripture and then you are to indicate *how to* use it as a guide in determining the method of generosity that God is calling you to.

Acts 20:35 *“In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”*

Proverbs 11:24-25 *“One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want. Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered.”*

Luke 22:1-4 *“Jesus looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the offering box, and he saw a poor widow put in two small copper coins. And he said, “Truly, I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them. For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on.”*

Proverbs 19:17 *“Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will repay him for his deed.”*

Matthew 6:21 *“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”*

1 Timothy 6:17-19 *“As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.”*
