

February 10 | Sunday

Lessons for a Better Life: Generosity

Read [Matthew 20:1-16](#)



11 | Mon – The backstory | Read [Matthew 19:27-30](#)

Jesus told the parable in Matt. 20:1-16 (see Sunday's reading) *after* a conversation with a rich young man, overheard by Jesus' disciples. As you read Matthew 19, you will see some of the things the disciples have given up to follow Jesus. So now that you know the backstory, what point do you think Jesus was trying to make in the parable of the landowner? Do you see God as a generous person? Why or why not?

12 | Tue – Generous forgiveness | Read [Psalm 103:10-14](#) / [Hebrews 10:15-17](#)

Look at God's generosity toward you. See how far away God has flung your sins; then read His promise to remember them no more. Our generosity often comes as a result of experiencing someone else's generosity toward us. Realizing how much and how completely you've been forgiven, are you willing to be as generous toward others who also need forgiveness?

13 | Wed – Generous hospitality | Read [Acts 28:7](#) / [John 14:1-3](#)

Paul experienced hospitality from a stranger. No matter where you meet people - at work, home, or elsewhere - do others see you as a welcoming person? Some folks have a gift for hospitality. Their homes may not be large or fancy but there is always a warm welcome when you walk in. Can you offer the same kind of hospitality? Follow Jesus' example. Even now, he is preparing a new home so when this life ends you can enjoy his hospitality forever. Your hospitality to others here could open the door for them to join you there.

14 | Thu – Generous encouragement | Read [2 Thessalonians 2:16-17](#) / [Hebrews 3:12-13](#)

Words are powerful. They can build up or tear down, kill a spirit or heal it. Everyone needs to be encouraged. Look for ways to use your words to help others find hope. Look around, who might need to hear your words of affirmation today? Be generous with your smiles, your genuine concern, your compliments and see what a difference you can make. They won't cost you a dime but they could be priceless to the one who hears you. And it may even improve your day too!

15 | Fri – Resources for generosity | Read [2 Corinthians 9:7-15](#)

Where do you get the resources? You might be thinking about how little you have or worried that sharing will reduce what you need for yourself. We know instinctively that we can only give what we possess. What has been given to you that you could give away? If God is your source, maybe he is waiting for you to make space for the new things he wants to send your way. Maybe you are his conduit to others.

16 | Sat – Results of generosity | Read [Proverbs 11:24-25](#) & [22:9](#) / [Psalm 37:25-26](#)

In these verses, you can see a few of the things that result from living as a generous person. Notice how it can affect your family and friends, your co-workers and neighbors, and even the impressionable young people who may be watching. In what area of your life do you want to grow in generosity? Decide what your next step would be and then do it. Even if no one else knows, you will certainly be blessing the heart of your heavenly Father!