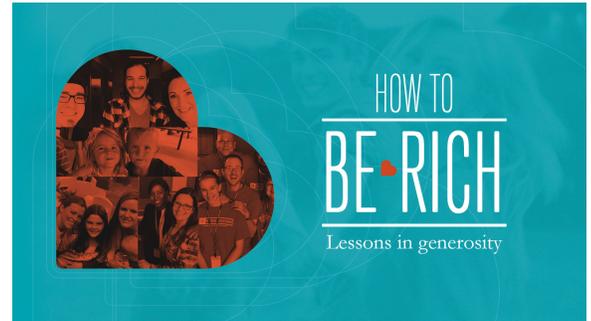


How To Be Rich: Lessons in Generosity 2: Generosity

Oct. 29, 2017

The Power of Generosity

John 3:16 – For God so loved the world that he GAVE...



The Romans

- Give to please the recipient, with the hopes that the recipient would return the favour.
- Printed it on their coins as a concept to live by.
- Those that had the most would receive even more.

Jesus

- Being a neighbour (Luke 10:25-37)
- Doing more than everyone else does (Luke 6:32-36)
- Loving enemies (Luke 6)
- Washing feet (John 13)

The Early Church

- Had nothing: no buildings, voice, respect or influence.
- Mocked, persecuted, tortured, killed, fed to lions, burned to death.
- Forced to leave cities and live in small rural poor towns.
- Took their cue from the teachings and actions of Jesus.
- They gave without strings attached, with charity.

Generosity was the hallmark of the church.

Wouldn't it be amazing if we as Christians were known for our generosity?

What Generosity Looks Like

• Commitment to God

Jesus: "Whatever you did / didn't do for one of these brothers and sisters *of mine*, you did / didn't do for ME."

• Character of God

Ephesians 1: He has blessed us, chosen us, adopted us, redeemed us, forgiven us, lavished His grace on us, revealed His mystery to us, predestined us, included us, marked us with the Holy Spirit.

• Command of God

1 Timothy 6:17-19 - *Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.*

What Generosity Produces

• God's Blessing

Deut. 15:10 – The Lord said, *“Give generously and do so without a grudging heart; then because of this the Lord your God will bless you in all your work and in everything you put your hand to.”*

- **Generational Blessing**

Psalm 37:25-26 - King David wrote, *“I was young and now I am old, yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken or their children begging for bread. They are always generous and lend freely; their children will be a blessing.”*

- **Goodwill**

Psalm 112:5 - *“Good will” come to those who are generous and lend freely.*

- **Goodness**

Luke 11:41 - Jesus said, *“Be generous to the poor, and you will be clean on the inside and outside.”*

- **Gratitude**

2 Cor. 9:11 - The apostle Paul wrote, *“Your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.”*

We Need To

1. **Resist continually**

- The urge to compare ourselves with others
- 2 Cor. 10:12 - *We do not dare classify or compare ourselves... it is not wise.*

2. **Guard carefully**

- That which pulls at our heart, captures our thoughts, glistens to our eyes
- 1 Tim. 6:7-10 - *People who want to be rich fall into all sorts of temptations and traps. They are caught by foolish and harmful desires that drag them down and destroy them. The love of money causes all kinds of trouble. Some people want money so much that they have given up their faith and caused themselves a life of sorrow.*

3. **Think correctly**

- About our stuff, our possessions, our wealth
- Eccl. 5:19 - *If God gives a man wealth and property, he should be grateful and enjoy that.*

4. **Use generously**

- Use what we have, what we earn, what we're given, to help others who have need.