



Generous: The Beauty In Giving

God loves a cheerful giver
2 Corinthians 9:7B
If Generosity Isn't Joyful, It Isn't Generosity

This Series—Jesus talked about money more than any other subject, except the kingdom of God. Why?

Jesus knew that if his followers couldn't learn to live generously, materialism and greed would gain a foothold in their faith.

The Psychology of Giving—It all comes down to Joy

Hedonic Adaption—diminished happiness over time.

University of Chicago & Northwestern experiment—the joy of giving

Focusing on outcomes vs. experience—reinforces our sense of belonging.

Why Talk About This In Church?

Living Generously leads to joy—the kind of joy that is infectious

The kind of joy that we forget when we get older...

Video—I Like Bugshells (simple, joyful giving is beautiful)

IF GENEROSITY ISN'T JOYFUL, IT ISN'T GENEROSITY

2 Corinthians 9:7b

- Proverbs 22:9: “A generous person will be happy because they share their food with those in need.” Paul was probably quoting from memory here.*
- Giving out of self-interest to receive a reward here or hereafter is reluctant giving*
- There is no genuine joy in reluctance, only calculating self-concern.*

When we give cheerfully, we are acting out of a pure, beautiful, child-like kind of faith that is selfless and surrendered. And the result is pure joy.

What Can We Do To Be Cheerful Givers?

- Have A Plan—make it the first thing you budget.*
- Follow Your Money—find ways to be engaged as you give.*
- Don't Always Make Sense—do something crazy sometimes.*
- Trust God With the Outcomes—take yourself out of the equation.*

Imagine what it would look like if we really got this...

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SERMON EXTRAS & FURTHER READING

FOR FURTHER READING:

Radical Generosity: Unlock the Transformative Power of Giving

M.J. Ryan

Rambam's Ladder: A Meditation on Generosity and Why It Is Necessary to Give

Julie Salamon

Fields of God

Andy Stanley

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