



Generosity & Greed

June 30, 2013

1.

BIG themes in Proverbs regarding money

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 - Generosity: a readiness to do good for others, leads to abundance in giving

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 - Generosity: a readiness to do good for others, leads to abundance in giving
- Laziness and greediness → DESTRUCTION
 - Greed: a craving for more wealth and possessions than one needs



Disclosure: I am a hopeless schemer :)

Today's goal = become SCHEMERS of GOOD

Proverbs 14:22

5 Questions for the would-be SCHEMER

- WHY do we give?

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- WHY do we give?
- WHAT do we give?

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- WHY do we give?
- WHAT do we give?
- HOW MUCH do we give?

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- WHAT do we give?
- HOW MUCH do we give?
- TO WHOM do we give?
- What STOPS us from giving?

WHY do we give?

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To multiply image bearers (i.e. make disciples)

Creation Mandate

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

So God created man in his own image,

in the image of God he created him;

male and female he created them.

And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

Genesis 1:26-28

WHY do we give?

Honor the Lord with your wealth

and with the firstfruits of all your produce;

then your barns will be filled with plenty,

and your vats will be bursting with wine.

Proverbs 3:9-10

WHY do we give?

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.

The people curse him who holds back grain,

but a blessing is on the head of him who sells it.

Proverbs 11:24-26

Getting rich sounds nice, but....

- ...it is NOT THE GOAL of the true Christian!
 - Jesus said to them, "Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." Luke 12:15
 - Those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. 1 Timothy 6:9

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 - Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, so that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword. They went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, mistreated— of whom the world was not worthy—wandering about in deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. Hebrews 11:35-38

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- ...is the goal (and promise) of FALSE TEACHERS!
 - Isaiah 56:10-11, Jeremiah 6:13-15, 1 Timothy 6:3-10, 2 Peter 2:1-3,14-16

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- Charitable giving

- Remind us (and others) that GOD IS GENEROUS
- STOP us from making IDOLS of money and stuff

WHAT do we give?

21.

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Everything we have been given (Time, Talent, Treasure)

Stewarding God's Time, Talent, and Treasure

- Parable of the Talents - Matthew 25:14-30

- The kingdom of heaven....will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. (verses 14-15)

- Parable of the Dishonest Manager - Luke 16:1-13

- Make friends for yourselves by means of "unrighteous" wealth, so that when it fails they may receive you into the eternal dwellings. (verse 9)

Giving of God's TIME

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- Taking a weekly sabbath
 - Demonstration of faith and reminder of creation/eternity with Christ (Hebrews 8:1-11)

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- Spiritual gifts

- Teaching, helping, administration, discernment...

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- Homes

- Event hosting, sharing meals, temporary/long-term housing, adoption...

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Everything and everyone, in turn.

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- Tension between PROVIDING FOR TOMORROW vs. GENEROSITY TODAY
- Doesn't necessarily mean free (Proverbs 11:26)

What STOPS us from giving?

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Circumstances vs. Sin?

When circumstances STOP us from giving

- Too Poor

- No job, single mom, school debt, credit card debt...
- Example of the Macedonian church (2 Corinthians 8:1-15)
- Example of the poor widow (Luke 21:1-4)

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- Too Busy

- Working hard, playing hard, spending time with family and friends...
- Example of the Good Samaritan

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- Laziness

- Giving takes thought and work

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- Knows when to REST

The "RIGHT" question

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Where is there need in the kingdom of God, locally and worldwide, and how can I put more resources toward meeting that need?

Do they not go astray who devise evil? Those who
devise good meet steadfast love and faithfulness.

Proverbs 14:22



56.