



Living A Generous Life

Luke 9:10-17

10 And the apostles, when they had returned, told Him all that they had done. Then He took them and went aside privately into a deserted place belonging to the city called Bethsaida.

11 But when the multitudes knew it, they followed Him; and He received them and spoke to them about the kingdom of God, and healed those who had need of healing.

12 When the day began to wear away, the twelve came and said to Him, "Send the multitude away, that they may go into the surrounding towns and country, and lodge and get provisions; for we are in a deserted place here."

13 But He said to them, "You give them something to eat." And they said, "We have no more than five loaves and two fish, unless we go and buy food for all these people."

14 For there were about five thousand men. Then He said to His disciples, "Make them sit down in groups of fifty."

15 And they did so, and made them all sit down.

16 Then He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, He blessed and broke them, and gave them to the disciples to set before the multitude.

17 So they all ate and were filled, and twelve baskets of the leftover fragments were taken up by them.

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- 1.** The need to live a generous life will increase through discipleship
- 2.** The purpose of living a generous life is to grow the Kingdom of God
- 3.** Living a generous life means giving more than what you are expected to give.
- 4.** God's call to live a generous life is always greater than our ability
- 5.** To obey God's call to live a generous life we must live by faith in God's ability
- 6.** God's call to live a generous life is a greater blessing to everyone when everyone does their part
- 7.** God's call to live a generous life unlocks the abundant life that Jesus promised His disciples
- 8.** Be a faithful and wise steward of God and you will live a generous life.

In this story, the disciples of Jesus learned that they were stewards of the bread and the fish. It was not their bread and fish. It was God's. As they obeyed God as good stewards, they lived a generous life.

The prophets of Israel predicted that God would send a Messiah to deliver their nation from their enemies. Messiah means anointed one or chosen one. They predicted that the

whole world would be subject to Him. He would be a descendant of David, but He would be God. He would be King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

Isaiah 9:6-7

6 For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

7 Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

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Jesus claimed to be the Messiah!

Matthew 16:13-17

13 When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, "Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?"

14 So they said, "Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

15 He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?"

16 Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

17 Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.

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Matthew 28:18-20

18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

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He supported His claims by His teaching, His life, and His miracles. Only God had power over Satan and over nature.

Mark 1:22-28

22 And they were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

23 Now there was a man in their synagogue with an unclean spirit. And he cried out,

24 saying, "Let us alone! What have we to do with You, Jesus of Nazareth? Did You come to destroy us? I know who You are — the Holy One of God!"

25 But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be quiet, and come out of him!"

26 And when the unclean spirit had convulsed him and cried out with a loud voice, he came out of him.

27 Then they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, "What is this? What new doctrine is this? For with authority He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey Him."

28 And immediately His fame spread throughout all the region around Galilee.

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Mark 4:35-41

35 On the same day, when evening had come, He said to them, "Let us cross over to the other side."

36 Now when they had left the multitude, they took Him along in the boat as He was. And other little boats were also with Him.

37 And a great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that it was already filling.

38 But He was in the stern, asleep on a pillow. And they awoke Him and said to Him, "Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?"

39 Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace, be still!" And the wind ceased and there was a great calm.

40 But He said to them, "Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?"

41 And they feared exceedingly, and said to one another, "Who can this be, that even the wind and the sea obey Him!"

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The last miracle He performed over nature was His greatest one. He rose from the dead. He predicted this would happen and then it happened.

Matthew 28:5-8

5 But the angel answered and said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified.

6 He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.

7 And go quickly and tell His disciples that He is risen from the dead, and indeed He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him. Behold, I have told you."

8 So they went out quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to bring His disciples word.

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There were over 500 witnesses to His resurrection.

1 Corinthians 15:3-8

3 For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,

4 and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,

5 and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve.

6 After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep.

7 After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles.

8 Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time.

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After His resurrection, for the first time, the disciples of Jesus understood everything that the prophets said about the messiah. When He ascended unto heaven, they believed His promise that He would return and when He returned, He would fulfill the last prophecies

about the messiah and the whole world would be subject to Him. After His ascension, an angel of God reminded them about these prophecies.

Acts 1:9-11

9 Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.

10 And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel,

11 who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven."

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The first disciples of Jesus worshipped Jesus as God. They worshipped Him as Lord of Lords and King of Kings. They worshipped Him as their Master.

They saw themselves as His stewards over His house. In other words, everything in their possession belonged to him.

1. Their spirit, soul, and body
2. Their material possessions
3. Their authority

They remembered His teachings on stewardship.

Matthew 24:45-51

45 "Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his master made ruler over his household, to give them food in due season?

46 Blessed is that servant whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing.

47 Assuredly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all his goods.

48 But if that evil servant says in his heart, 'My master is delaying his coming,'

49 and begins to beat his fellow servants, and to eat and drink with the drunkards,

50 the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for him and at an hour that he is not aware of,

51 and will cut him in two and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

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They were intent on being faithful and wise stewards. His church was the priority in their stewardship.

Acts 2:43-47

43 Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles.

44 Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common,

45 and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need.

46 So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart,
47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.
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Acts 4:32-37

32 Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul; neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common.

33 And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all.

34 Nor was there anyone among them who lacked; for all who were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the proceeds of the things that were sold,

35 and laid them at the apostles' feet; and they distributed to each as anyone had need.

36 And Joses, who was also named Barnabas by the apostles (which is translated Son of Encouragement), a Levite of the country of Cyprus,

37 having land, sold it, and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.

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They did this because they saw Him as Lord, and they saw themselves as His stewards.

1 Corinthians 4:1-2

4 Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.

2 Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.

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The leaders of the church saw Him as Lord and saw themselves as stewards of God.

Titus 1:7-9

7 For a bishop must be blameless, as a steward of God, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money,

8 but hospitable, a lover of what is good, sober-minded, just, holy, self-controlled,

9 holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict.

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Is this the way you see Jesus? Do you see Him as your Lord and Master who is going to return and rule the earth?

Is this the way you see yourself? Do you see yourself as His steward over His house?

I wish I had better news this morning.

90% of church members do not participate in discipleship.

80% of church members do not faithfully support their church.

The main reason so many are not living a generous life is that we have the wrong view of Jesus and the wrong view of ourselves?

Instead of seeing Jesus as Lord and Master, so many in the church see Him as just as their servant to help them and others have a better life on earth.

Instead of seeing ourselves as His stewards, so many in the church see themselves as entitled masters and lords over what is ours?

I don't think we understand what an offense this is to God.

This is what Satan did. He was a steward that acted like he was lord. God judged him severely.

Satan passed this sin on to mankind.

This is what Adam and Eve did. God cursed them and put them out of the garden.

This is what King Saul did. God replaced him as king with king David.

This is what King David did. God allowed his son to die and cursed his family.

This is what David's son Absalom did. He was killed by Joab, the commander of David's.

This is what Joab did. On the brink of death, David told Solomon to have Joab killed citing Joab's past betrayals and the blood that he was guilty of, and for this Solomon ordered his death by the hand of Benaiah.

This is what King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon did. He was driven from men and ate grass like oxen; his body was wet with the dew of heaven till his hair had grown like eagles' feathers and his nails like birds' claws.

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People ask, why is God so harsh with sinners? Many believe that God's judgment for sinners is too harsh.

God's eternal condemnation of sinners is His just response to the pride of mankind.

Instead of seeing God as Lord and ourselves as His stewards we...

1. Act like He does not exist
2. Consider ourselves to be lord over what He has given us
3. Use what He has given us in a way that He forbids to satisfy our own desires
4. Violate the rights of others
5. Take credit for that which we could never achieve without Him
6. Persecute His messengers that He sends to warn us
7. Reject the Lordship of His Son as Lord that He sent to save us

If you have not received Jesus as your savior and Lord, you should be terrified based on the Word of God.

There is nothing standing between you and the wrath of almighty God but one last beat of your heart.

The only reason that you are not already suffering His judgment is His mercy. He has given you one more chance to repent of your pride and receive His Son Jesus as your Lord and savior.

Jesus is God. Jesus died to satisfy God's judgment against you and the rest of mankind. He is savior.

But Jesus is Lord. He is the ruler over heaven and earth. One day, every man and woman will see Him coming in His glory!

To receive Jesus as your savior and Lord means you receive Him as God's substitute for your sin.

But it also means you receive Him as your Lord.

To receive Him as your Lord means you surrender to be His steward.

- You surrender your spirit, soul, and body
- You surrender all your material possessions
- You surrender your authority

If you have received Jesus, do not be deceived by the false teachers in this age that are teaching that God is fine with you living like you are lord!

God sent His messengers to remind the church over and over that we are stewards of what belongs to Jesus.

[1 Corinthians 3:16-17](#)

[16 Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?](#)

[17 If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.](#)

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[1 Corinthians 6:19-20](#)

[19 Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?](#)

[20 For you were bought at a price; therefore, glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.](#)

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There will always be things that we are ignorant about when it comes to obeying God and being His steward. God is very patient with us as we learn His will. It is a life long journey and we will never fully arrive.

But know this, God does not stand by passively when His children act like we are lord instead of His steward.

God's warning to several of the churches in Revelation 2-3 demonstrate that we serve a personal God that will do what it takes to get our attention when we are not good stewards.

His discipline is not punishment. His discipline is tough love!

Church, if you are not living a generous life because you are not worshipping Jesus as Lord and you are not being His steward, will you repent today?

- Will you surrender your spirit, soul, and body?
- Will you surrender all your material possessions?
- Will you surrender your authority?

If you see yourself as God's steward, your prayers will always sound a lot like this prayer that David prayed when He was right with God...

1 Chronicles 29:11-13

11 Yours, O Lord, is the greatness, the power and the glory, the victory and the majesty; For all that is in heaven and in earth is Yours; Yours is the kingdom, O Lord, And You are exalted as head over all.

12 Both riches and honor come from You, and You reign over all. In Your hand is power and might; In Your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all.

13 "Now therefore, our God, we thank You and praise Your glorious name.

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