

Modeling Generosity

Monday, Day 1 - God's Provision for All

Bible Reading: Deuteronomy 10:12-22

"He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the foreigner residing among you, giving them food and clothing" (Deuteronomy 10:18).

In this passage of Deuteronomy, God reminds His people that caring for the vulnerable is part of His character. In this society, the fatherless, the widow, and the foreigner (among others) were at economic risk of poverty. Just as he provided for them, God expected His people to do the same. (See Deuteronomy 26:12.)

Questions for Reflection

1. What groups of people are at economic risk in today's society? As Christians, how can we make provision for them?

2. In Deuteronomy 10:19, the following command is given: "And you are to love those who are foreigners, for you yourselves were foreigners in Egypt." What does it mean to love them?

3. What does the Bible passage tell us about God's goodness and how we should respond?

Tuesday, Day 2 – The Generosity of Israel

Bible Reading: 1 Chronicles 29:1-20

As David made preparations for building the temple, he challenged the leaders to give to this cause as generously as he had given. They answered the call, giving "freely and wholeheartedly to the LORD" (1 Chron. 29:9).

David acknowledged that they were only giving back what God had given them, saying, "But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? ***Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand***" (1 Chron. 29:14).

Questions for Reflection

1. Why do you think David challenged his leaders to give to the building of the temple, even though he had already given substantial resources?

2. When do you think it's easy to give? When is it difficult?

3. What does the Bible passage tell us about God's goodness and how we should respond?

Wednesday, Day 3 – Generosity and Blessing

Bible Reading: Deuteronomy 15: 1-11

*"If anyone is poor among your fellow Israelites in any of the towns of the land the Lord your God is giving you, do not be hardhearted or tightfisted toward them. Rather, **be openhanded and freely lend them whatever they need. . . . Give generously to them 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"** (Deuteronomy 15:7, 10).*

In this passage, the Israelites receive instruction about the attitude they are to have when giving to the poor. Have you ever considered that you can control your own attitude towards giving?

We also learn that blessing others leads to blessings from God. Are those blessings from God material, immaterial, or both? Reflect upon an experience when you have received a blessing after giving to others.

Questions for Reflection

1. When you give, do you feel blessed? Do you ever feel that you will lack for something because you're giving something away?

2. Is there a difference between your attitude when you give to the church versus when you give to the poor? Why or why not?

3. What does the Bible passage tell us about God's goodness and how we should respond?

Thursday, Day 4 – Giving in Secret

Bible reading: Matthew 6:1-4

“But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you” (Matthew 6:3-4).

In verse 2 of this passage, Jesus says that the hypocrites, who “announce [their giving] with trumpets . . . have received their reward in full.” What does this imply about how we are rewarded for giving?

Questions for Reflection

1. This passage is from the Sermon on the Mount. Why do you think Jesus gave these instructions during one of his most notable sermons?

2. Do you think that all gifts should be given anonymously? Why or why not?

3. What does the Bible passage tell us about God’s goodness and how we should respond?

Friday, Day 5 – Excel in the Grace of Giving

Bible reading: 2 Corinthians 8:1-7

“But since you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you—see that you also excel in this grace of giving” (2 Corinthians 8:7).

This scripture passage follows the account of the Macedonian churches who gave “in the midst of a very severe trial” and “their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity.” Paul says that “they gave as much as they were able, even beyond their ability.” He calls the church at Corinth to also “excel in this grace of giving.”

Questions for Reflection

1. Have you ever given “in the midst of a very severe trial”? If so, how did it make you feel?

2. What does it mean to “excel in the grace of giving”?

3. What does the Bible passage tell us about God's goodness and how we should respond?

Saturday, Day 6 – The Generous Will Be Blessed

Bible reading: Proverbs 22:1-16

"The generous will themselves be blessed, for they share their food with the poor"
(Proverbs 22:9).

Scriptures in both the Old and New Testaments illustrate how God's people are to care for the poor. As Exodus 12:10-12 notes, "For six years you are to sow your fields and harvest the crops, but during the seventh year let the land lie unplowed and unused. Then the poor among your people may get food from it."

Questions for Reflection

1. Proverbs 22:2 advises, "Rich and poor have this in common: The LORD is the Maker of them all." What does this imply about our standing before the Lord, regardless of our circumstances?

2. Are you more inclined to give to the poor in your community, or outside it? Why?

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3. What does the Bible passage tell us about God's goodness and how we should respond?

Sunday, Day 7 – God's Provision for Us

Bible reading: Luke 11:1-11

"Give us each day our daily bread" (Luke 11:3).

Two paragraphs after the Lord's Prayer, Jesus says, "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened" (Luke 11:9-10).

Why do you think this passage follows so soon after the Lord's Prayer?

Questions for Reflection

1. In your heart, do you feel that you rely on God for your "daily bread"? Or do you find it difficult?
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2. When you pray, do you "ask, seek, and knock"? What does it mean to "ask, seek, and knock"?

3. What does the Bible passage tell us about God's goodness and how we should respond?
