

# GENEROUS!

Tommy Gray | Nov 28, 2010



*In a nutshell:*

Money is the number one tangible indicator of who has our heart. When we put Jesus on the throne of our life, we become *generous* people.

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**Icebreaker:** What's on your Christmas list? (No, really.) What do you *really* want?

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## Five Mathew 6 Principles:

- 1. You can't take it with you but you can send it on ahead.**  
(By investing it in kingdom purposes.)
- 2. Your heart always goes where you put your money.**  
(i.e.: in a car or stock purchase. Invest in kingdom work, and your heart will follow.)
- 3. You must choose between God and money.**  
(God alone sits on the throne of our lives. It can't be "God and...")
- 4. You are blessed to be a blessing.**  
(Some people give in order to be blessed, but the new testament suggests the opposite.)
- 5. You can live for the dot** (life here on earth) **or for the line** (eternity).  
**Discuss:** Read Matthew 6:19-21, 24, using different translations if available. See if you can pick out the principles above, and comment on each one.

## People don't give generously because:

- They have not had good instruction.
  - They are suffering financial hardship.
  - They are in debt.
  - They don't trust the vision of the church.
  - They don't love God enough. (Because they don't know how much God loves them.)
- Discuss:** What keeps you from giving generously? How can you eliminate this barrier (take "Financial Peace", sell some stuff, give first)? How can your small group help?

## Two Responses

In Luke 18:18 (and following) Jesus told of "The Rich Young Ruler." Money was on the throne of his life. There was no room for God. Beginning in Luke 19:1 we learn that Zacchaeus responded very differently.

**Discuss:** Read these stories aloud, using different translations if available. The first story was a parable, but the second was an actual event and the response of a real person. Which story challenges you more?

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## As a Group:

Consider reading *The Treasure Principle* by Randy Alcorn and discussing it as a group.