

GENEROSITY CHALLENGE

DAY 4: Why We Give

Generosity is one of the easiest ways to identify if somebody is a follower of Jesus. The earliest disciples modeled what it means to live generous lives by sharing everything they had and giving to those in need.

But why is generosity so important for followers of Jesus?

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In Matthew 6:19-21, Jesus says, "Don't store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be."

As followers of Jesus, the answer to "Why we give?" is best answered by looking at whose kingdom you are building with your generosity. When you give your time, money, and talents in Jesus' name, you are placing your trust, security, and identity in his kingdom instead of your own.

In John 13:35, Jesus says, "Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples." A few chapters later, in John 15:13, he says, "There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends." Talk about generosity!

When you live a generous life, your life and actions are not just for yourself. They are building up the kingdom and pointing people in the direction of Jesus!

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

Take a look at the parable Jesus shares in Matthew 25:31-40. This story shows how you invest in the Kingdom of Heaven when you prioritize people over your property and possessions. Who are the hungry, thirsty, sick, naked, imprisoned people around you? Set aside some time to think of how you can invest in those people around you today.

