

**“Jesus the Generous One” (part 2)
April 15, 2012**

Genesis 17:1- God introduced Himself to Abraham as “El Shaddai”- *the God of more than enough*—to meet Abraham’s needs AND to bless all nations!

John 2:1-11- Jesus’ first miracle—wedding in Cana—180 gallons of the best wine (quality AND quantity). “Thus, He revealed His glory” (v. 11)—the “*weight*” of who He is.

- Gospels filled with accounts of His generosity—with His time, energy, attention
- Large crowds followed Him—drawn to His generosity
- He gives extravagantly: “Life more than abundantly” (John 10:10); “Pressed down and running over” (Luke 6:38) “12 baskets” (Jn. 6)
- Gave the ultimate: “If I be lifted up—draw all to me” (John 12:32)

PROP- Jesus—the Generous One—is calling us to join Him in a lifestyle of generosity.

[NOTE: “Generosity” - from “*genus*”—“of noble birth”; rooted in identity- know who and Whose you are; trust Him to supply] [“open-handed” vs. “withholding”—clenched fist]

1. GENEROUS WITH MERCY & FORGIVENESS

Luke 6:37-42

- We are called to love people (not our job to change them)
- In fact, you can’t change people
- By God’s grace—you can change! Others then have the choice to change in response to you!

2. GENEROUS WITH FINANCES

NOTE: 38 of Jesus’ parables recorded in the Gospels—16 deal w/ money

- Jesus correlates our capacity to handle money with our capacity to handle spiritual matters (SEE Luke 16:10-13)**
- Jesus calls the generous life the ultimate liberator from greed—resulting in a spiritually wealthy life (SEE Luke 12:13-21)**

c. **(SEE Luke 12:22-34) What we value (“treasure”) is ultimately reflected in our calendar & our checkbook (i.e., How we “spend” time and “spend” money)**

- Invest in?
- Give ourselves to? (2 Cor. 6:11- “Opened wide our hearts to you”)

d. **Generosity and sacrifice go hand-in-hand**

NOTE: The “widow’s mite” (Luke 21)

NOTE: The woman with the “alabaster box” (Matthew 26) Why? “She loved much”

- Love is seen in sacrifice (i.e., they both gave “all they had”)
- “No greater love”—than to sacrifice for another

RESPONSE

**Love and generosity will win this war!
(i.e., The Blood of Lambs- Kamal Saleem)**