

Introduction

A familiar story that is often misunderstood and misapplied:

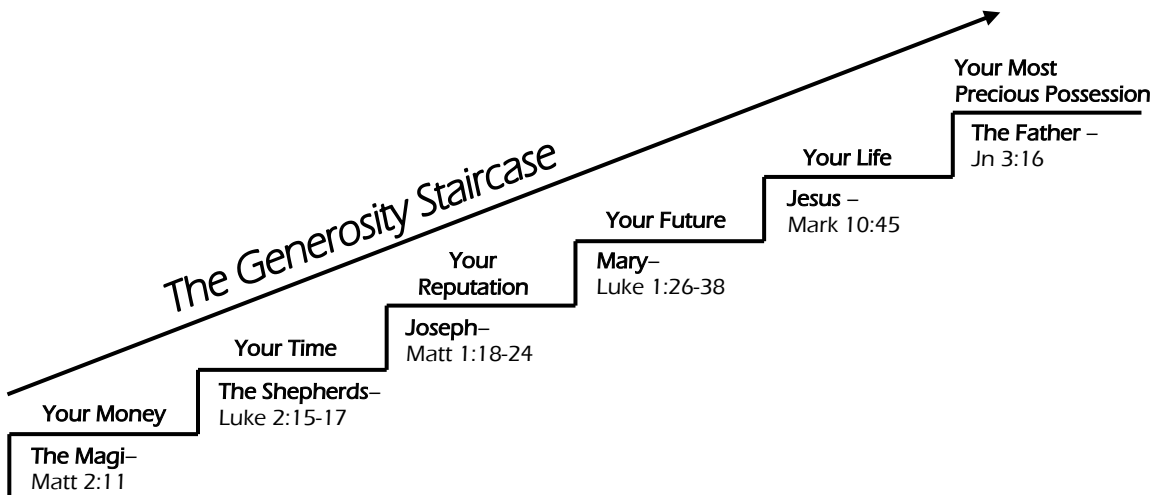
¹As he looked up, Jesus saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury. ²He also saw a poor widow put in **two very small copper coins**. ³"I tell you the truth," he said, "this poor widow has **put in more** than all the others. ⁴All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on."

Luke 21:1-4 (NIV)

Generosity Breakthrough Concept #4

- God does not measure generosity by the size of our gift, but by the size of our sacrifice.

The Incarnation: A Graduate Course in Generosity



Observations:

1. Generosity is not so much a virtuous act, as it is a virtuous response.
2. God does not measure generosity by the size of our gift, but by the size of our sacrifice.
3. Increasing levels of generosity bring increasing levels of reward and blessings.

Generosity is to Love as Thunder is to Lightening

“Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.” Luke 6:38

Summary & Personal Application

1. **Generosity always begins with God; it is the visible expression of His infinite, incomprehensible love for us.** (James 1:17, Ephesians 3:14-21)

Question: Are you living with the constant awareness that you are the object of God's infinite and unconditional love?

Application: Pray Ephesians 3:14-21 for yourself daily for 30 days.

2. **Our generosity is the visible expression of our love (response to God's love) for God.** (John 14:21)

Question: Where are you on your generosity journey with God? What "next step" do you sense God's Spirit prompting you to take?

Application: Memorize John 14:21 this week.

3. **Generous living begins with the "training wheels" of money and possessions and graduates to making our "very lives" a gift to God as a perpetual act of worship.** (Romans 12:1-2)

Question: Why is it so critical to remember that God wants the very best for us as we grow in our generosity?

Application: List 25 specific blessings from God before the end of the week and share them with a friend.