



## SERMON NOTES

### Live to Give

#### The Generosity Paradox - Part IV

Pastor Carl Toti

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#### Proverbs 11:24 (MSG)

The world of the generous gets larger and larger; the world of the stingy gets smaller and smaller.

The five measures of well-being are:

- 1: Happiness (Psalm 144:15)
- 2: Bodily health (3 John 2)
- 3: Purpose in living (Acts 13:36)
- 4: Avoidance of depression (Phil. 4:6)
- 5: Interest in personal growth (Luke 2:52)

Adapted: Paradox of Generosity—Giving We Receive, Grasping We Lose, Christian Smith & Hillary Davidson

Generosity directly influences and increases the five measures of well-being.

#### Acts 20:35

“It is more blessed to give than to receive.”

#### THE GENEROUS FOUR

There are four key areas in our life where we can practice generosity.

#### M\_\_\_\_\_

##### Genesis 28:16-22 (NKJV)

16 Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, “Surely the LORD is in this place, and I did not know it.” 17 And he was afraid and said, “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven!” 18 Then Jacob rose early in the morning, and took the stone that he had put at his head, set it up as a pillar, and poured oil on top of it. 19 And he called the name of that place Bethel; but the name of that city had been Luz previously. 20 Then Jacob made a vow, saying, “If God will be with me, and keep me in this way that I am going, and give me bread to eat and clothing to put on, 21 so that I come back to my father’s house in peace, then the LORD shall be my God. 22 And this stone which I have set as a pillar shall be God’s house, and of all that You give me I will surely give a tenth to You.”

Jacob, in God’s presence, talked about money. God never brought up money but Jacob did. When we get in God’s presence he reveals things.

Nearly four out of ten Americans (38 percent) who say that they give away 10 percent of their income report that they are very happy, according to the research conducted by the authors of Paradox of Generosity.

#### V\_\_\_\_\_

##### Isaiah 63:5 (MSG)

5 I looked around for someone to help —no one. I couldn’t believe it —not one volunteer. So I went ahead and did it myself, fed and fueled by my rage.

97 percent of Americans who volunteer believe that “through volunteering, one person can make a real difference.” The vast majority of volunteers in the US also believe that volunteering can change lives, create goodwill, give people hope, and unite communities.

### Paradox of Generosity—Giving We Receive, Grasping We Lose

#### David Volunteered

1 Samuel 17:32 (CEV)

32 “Your Majesty,” he said, “this Philistine shouldn’t turn us into cowards. I’ll go out and fight him myself!”

#### Isaiah Volunteered

Isaiah 6:8 (NKJV)

8 Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: “Whom shall I send, And who will go for Us?” Then I said, “Here am I! Send me.”

R \_\_\_\_\_ G \_\_\_\_\_

Ruth 2:14-16 (AMP)

14 And at mealtime Boaz said to her, Come here and eat of the bread and dip your morsel in the sour wine [mixed with oil]. And she sat beside the reapers; and he passed her some parched grain, and she ate until she was satisfied and she had some left [for Naomi]. 15 And when she got up to glean, Boaz ordered his young men, Let her glean even among the sheaves, and do not reproach her. 16 And let fall some handfuls for her on purpose and let them lie there for her to glean, and do not rebuke her.

1. How available are you when loved ones have a problem requiring your time and attention? (Pro. 3:27)
2. How well and how often do you prefer others over your own interest? (Phil. 2:3-4)
3. More often than not do you go the “extra mile” for family, friends, and acquaintances? (Mat. 5:41)
4. Are you intentionally kind to family, friends and co-workers when you know they are discouraged? (Gal. 6:2)
5. Do you find joy in helping and serving others? (Rom. 12:13)
6. Do you generally make decisions based on the well-being of others? (Rom. 15:1)
7. Are you keeping score in your relationships with others? (James 1:19)

#### Neighborly Generosity

Luke 10:35-37 (ESV)

35 And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, ‘Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.’ 36 Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?” 37 He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” And Jesus said to him, “You go, and do likewise.”

When was the last time you visited a family member or hosted them in your home?

When was the last time you had a guest in your home?

In the last six months have you taken care of someone else’s children?

Have you watched over your neighbors home while they were away?