

HOW TO
BE GENEROUS
TO YOUR
ENEMY

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LOVE
YOUR
ENEMY

Sounds like a bad idea, right? It doesn't feel wise to be generous to my enemy, but generosity is like forgiveness on steroids. Forgiveness was Jesus' opening act on earth and generosity is the climax of our story in heaven.

By this point we've learned to pray, bless with our words and even do good for our enemies, but generosity scrapes away that last residue of resistance to Love that is deep in the crevices of our souls.

Do you want a free heart in a hard world? Be generous to the "wrong" people.

1

**WHY BE
GENEROUS
TO A JERK?**

When God made you in his image, he was being extravagantly generous.

- He gave you a human life and blessed you.
- He shared his personal power with you, elevating you as his image bearer to subdue and govern his gift of creation.

Even God's generosity was extremely risky and could be considered foolish if you look ahead to what happened next in the garden of Eden.

A black and white photograph of a hand holding a magnifying glass over a globe. The hand is positioned on the left, with the thumb and index finger holding the handle of the magnifying glass. The globe is centered in the frame, and the magnifying glass is held over it, making the globe appear larger. The background is a plain, light color.

2

THE GENEROSITY OF GOD

Genesis 1:27-28
Genesis 3:6

GENEROSITY PROTECTS OTHERS

3

The first work God gifted to us was keeping a beautiful garden (Genesis 2:15).

“**Shamar**” is the Hebrew word “to keep” and contains a sense of guarding or protecting. The cherub guarded (shamar) the way back to Eden after Adam and Eve failed to protect (shamar) Eden from the Snake (Genesis 3:24).

Shortly after the Fall, Cain killed Able because God preferred Able’s generosity over Cain’s. Afterwards Cain defensively spoke out, “Am I my brother’s keeper?” (Genesis 4:9). This question rings deeply in our souls when we encounter an enemy. Am I my brother’s keeper, or my enemy’s keeper? If so, am I willing to generously protect his or her successes over my own?

Shamar
(Keep)

God's
Eden

**Tree
of Life**

My Brother

Guard/
Protect

4

JUDGING, CONDEMNING & FORGIVING

"Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you" (Luke 6:37-38).

Judgment, condemnation, and unforgiveness are 3 protective tactics we often fall into. How are these 3 actions working out for you with your enemies?

1. Judgment of others determines how much mercy I have the capacity to receive.
2. Condemnation of others hardens my heart to both correction and blessings.
3. Lack of forgiveness makes it difficult for me to know Father God's love.

My Condemnation

My Mercy

My Blessing

Reciprocity

My
Unforgiveness

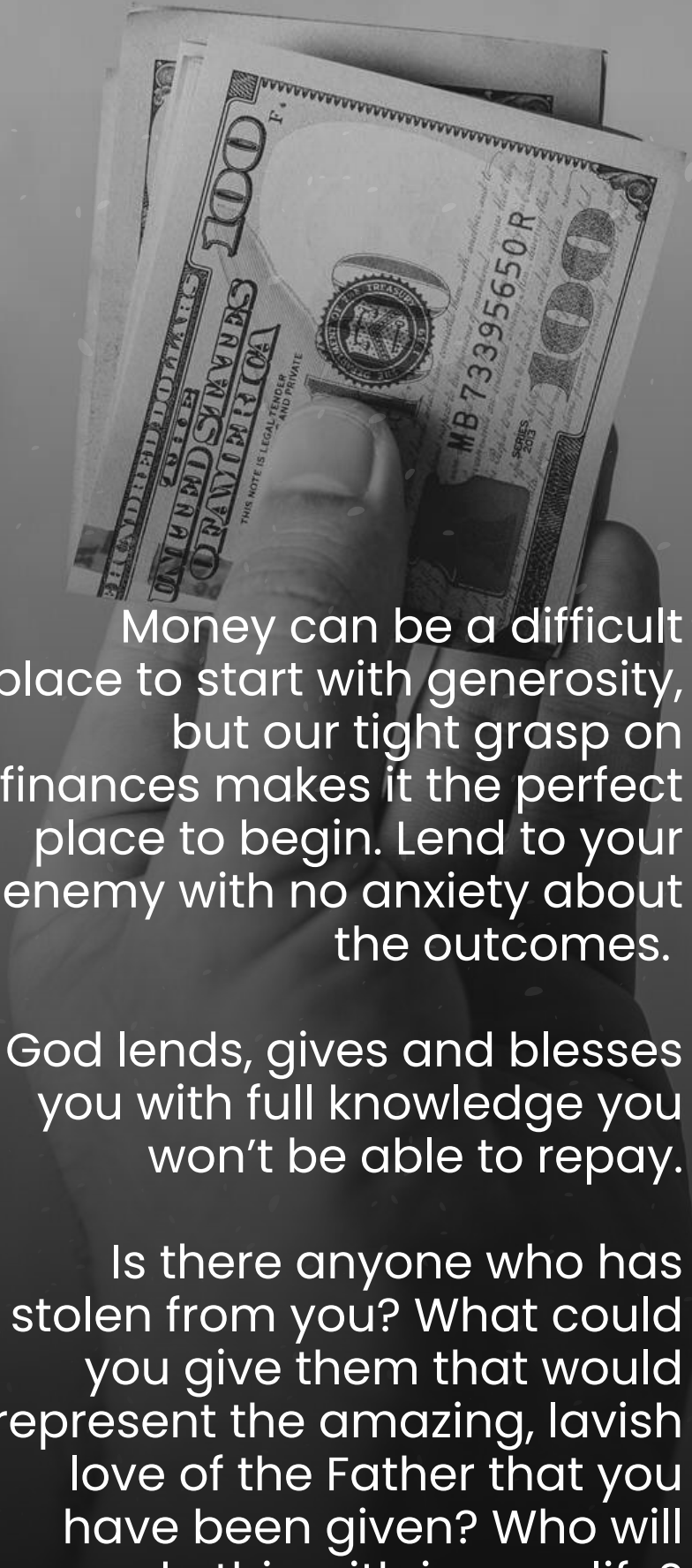
My
Judgement

My Acceptance

What if instead, we were generous?
What if we believed the best, celebrated
enemies and graciously pardoned them?
This attitude opens heaven's floodgates of
spiritual abundance in our lives.

Who can you practice this with today?

5 GIVE MONEY AWAY

A hand is shown holding a stack of US one hundred dollar bills. The top bill is clearly visible, showing the number '100' and the serial number 'MB 73395650 R'. The hand is positioned in the center-right of the frame, with the fingers gripping the edges of the stack. The background is a dark, textured grey.

Money can be a difficult place to start with generosity, but our tight grasp on finances makes it the perfect place to begin. Lend to your enemy with no anxiety about the outcomes.

God lends, gives and blesses you with full knowledge you won't be able to repay.

Is there anyone who has stolen from you? What could you give them that would represent the amazing, lavish love of the Father that you have been given? Who will you do this with in your life?

There is a generosity in the Godhead that knows no limits. Do you dare enter into God's amazing family? Being generous to enemies opens the door into the family room.

"If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?"
(Romans 8:31-32)



THE GENEROSITY OF GOD IN JESUS

6

7 EXPLORE MORE

Not sure about this? Try putting generosity into practice in small ways. Test the Lord by trying generosity to those hostile to you. See if giving to your enemy as an extravagant, sacrificial thanks to God isn't better than money in an offering basket.

Prayerfully consider your next actions:

- Identify the enemy/enemies that you feel called to act generously toward
- Begin to list your ideas of generous acts you could take

Hebrews 10:5-7
John 13:12-21



8

REFLECT & LISTEN

Loving my enemy generously moves beyond thoughtful, needs-based giving into unbounded, Spirit-led giving. How is the Holy Spirit leading me now through his grace?

- Is it money, a physical gift, my time and effort?
- Could I serve or give towards something they are working on or care about?
- Do I have any resources that would benefit and bless them?
- Am I willing to give in an exceptional way?

2 Corinthians 9:6-8
Hebrews 13:15-16

A hand holding a camera lens against a dark background. The lens is the central focus, with a blurred landscape visible through its opening. The background is a gradient of dark grey to black.

9

FILTER YOUR GENEROSITY

Use Philippians 4:8 to pray through your actions of generosity and make sure they really represent the heart of God.

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

True Not about appearances or opinions but God's generosity (Mark 12:14)

Honorable What gift would you give a someone valued or important?

Just What act of generosity could gain your enemies trust or gratitude?

Pure Release regrets or doubts, give cheerfully (1 Cor. 9:7)

Lovely Does it inspire you to love Jesus more?

Commendable Give with the earnestness of a child

Excellent Act from the presence of God

Praiseworthy Could this become a God-sized story?

It's better to do this with friends.
You will inspire each other more.

Set some goals:

- Create a list to track your wins
- Chose a favorite story or two of generosity to share with others
- Set some occasions/milestones you can celebrate together like reaching eight acts of generosity for "enemies" or a best generosity moment each month
- Push the successes out into your social network
- Do it in a way that really honors your opponents
- Have fun!



**ENGAGE
YOUR
COMMUNITY** 10