

## BE INTENTIONALLY GENEROUS

Scripture used: [Luke 10:33-37 \(NLT\)](#)

### OVERVIEW

Today, Pastor Hurmon continued with the series *Acts of Kindness* with the sermon “*Be Intentionally Generous*”, and we continued to explore the extraordinary account of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10. Pastor Hurmon provided three definitions of generosity: the act of being kind or generous, liberality in giving, and Pastor Hurmon’s preferred definition, freedom from meanness or smallness of mind or character. This last definition of generosity is a powerful expression of Jesus’ teaching of the essence of generosity in the parable of the Good Samaritan. Pastor Hurmon challenged us to embrace that definition and obey the command of Jesus “...now go and do the same.” ([Luke 10:33-37](#))

### KEY POINTS

- 1. The Blessing of Generosity:** The Good Samaritan gave from the multiple dimensions of his limited resources: transportation (*he put the man on his own donkey*), living space (*took him to an inn*), time (*where he took care of him*) and money/line of credit (*he handed the innkeeper two silver coins, telling him, ‘Take care of this man. If his bill runs higher than this, I’ll pay you the next time I’m here.’*) Paul emphasizes this type of multidimensional generosity in [Acts 20:35 \(NLT\)](#) *You should remember the words of the Lord Jesus: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’*
- 2. The Conviction of Generosity:** In [Matthew 6:24 \(NLT\)](#), Jesus warned *you cannot serve God and be enslaved to money*. A closed hand reflects a closed heart. God uses intentional generosity to break the chains of money. We can be intentional about our giving by taking the following steps:
  - a. Design a plan:** [Proverb 21:5](#) tells us that prosperity comes from good planning. 3S givers do not plan. They are spontaneous, sporadic, and sparing in their giving. 3P givers set a priority for giving, a percentage to give, and progressively give more over time. When generous people receive money first they give, then save, and lastly, spend. [Malachi 3:10](#) gives directions on how we should give generously; this should not be taken legalistically, as if to spur fear-based giving (instead, see 2 Corinthians 9:7 below), but rather as an expression of God’s heart for the importance of generosity.
  - b. Decide on a specific percentage:** [2 Corinthians 9:7 \(NLT\)](#) tells us to decide with our hearts how much to give and to give cheerfully. [Luke 6:38 \(NLT\)](#) tells us that if we give, we will also be given. We must each pray and ask God for wisdom about our giving.
  - c. Designate a place to give:** In order to decide where to give, we should ask three questions: What am I thankful for? What am I broken over? What has eternal value? We should also prioritize the Church in our giving because God’s work is branded in the Church, that is, the Church explicitly represents the Gospel of Jesus as it does good in the world.
- 3. Joy of Generosity:** There is great joy in intentional generosity. In [Hebrews 12:2 \(NLT\)](#), Paul reminds us to keep our eyes on Jesus, who went to the cross to pay the price for our sins looking forward to the joy that awaited him. We too should be intentionally generous awaiting the joy that comes with giving.

### DISCUSSION

- 1) HEAR** - What positive or negative lessons about generosity did you learn from your family growing up? What memories do you have about generosity or insecurity around money? This week ask God to give you wisdom about your generosity. Ask Him to show you how you might be intentionally generous.
- 2) UNDERSTAND** - Consider [Luke 10:33-37](#). Reflect on the story of the Good Samaritan and how he gave generously for the multidimensions of his limited resources. Take account of your own resources that you can use to be generous. What area do you believe you can give freely without stretching in an irresponsible way? What resource is limited for you and because of this you might hold tightly in your hands? Pray the following prayer: *Lord, transform me into one who is intentionally generous.*
- 3) DO** - Take into account how much you can give financially. How can you change your practices of giving to prioritize generosity? Join NBCC in praying for our service weekend [Be Rich to Others](#) and consider participating next weekend November 12-13. Please pray for this weekend: *Pray for the expansion of generosity to meet practical needs (housing and food insecurity, and financial needs.)*