



FIRM FOUNDATIONS. FRESH FAITH.

Sermon Study Guide

Week 7: Generosity

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What does it really mean to live generously? Too often, generosity can be reduced to occasional giving. Perhaps a donation here or there, or helping someone in a moment of need. But the picture painted in the early church is something far richer, deeper, and more transformative. It's not just about giving, it's about a way of life.

This week we explore the kind of radical generosity that shaped the early church and ask what it would look like for the church today to live the same way?

Read Acts 2:42-47, Acts 4:32-35 and Matthew 10:8

These passages paint a powerful picture of shared life in the early church. Community wasn't just about meeting together, it was about living deeply interconnected, generous lives. They shared possessions, supported one another, and ensured no one was in need.

This kind of radical generosity wasn't forced or imposed, it was chosen. It flowed naturally from their unity—being “one in heart and mind”—and from their shared experience of God's grace.

Jesus' life is the ultimate expression of generosity. He gave everything—freely, sacrificially, and for all. When we truly grasp the depth of God's grace, it reshapes our hearts and our response, so that giving becomes a natural overflow rather than a reluctant duty.



1. When you think about “community”, what does that look like for you? Where have you experienced genuine belonging?
2. In what ways does the early church’s example of generosity challenge your current lifestyle?

Read Acts 6:1-7 and Galatians 3:28

A problem arises in Acts 6. Some of the widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. Rather than ignoring the issue, the church responded with intentional action to ensure fairness and inclusion.

In a world marked by division, the early church embodied a new way of living, one where every person was valued and cared for. Distinctions like Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male or female were no longer barriers to belonging. This was radically countercultural then, and it still is today.

Generosity is not selective. It does not favour certain groups over others. The gospel breaks down barriers and calls believers to the kind of generosity that extends across cultural, social, and economic lines. Even in a city like Melbourne, there are people facing homelessness, isolation, and hardship. There are newcomers searching for belonging, families under pressure, and individuals longing to be seen.

The call to radical generosity hasn’t changed. And when the church lives this way together, it doesn’t just meet needs, it transforms society.

1. Who in your world might be feeling unseen or disconnected? How could you show them generosity this week?

Read Matthew 6:19-24 and Luke 20:20-26

Money is often one of the most challenging areas when it comes to generosity. Jesus speaks directly to this, warning that we cannot serve both God and money. It’s not that money is inherently bad, it’s that it can easily take hold of our hearts.

The key shift is from ownership to stewardship. Everything we have is ultimately God’s. Our time, abilities, finances, and possessions are entrusted to us, not owned by us. When we live with this mindset, it frees us from fear and opens the door to generosity.

1. Why do you think Jesus spoke so often about money?



2. What does it mean, practically, to see yourself as a steward rather than an owner?
3. What might it look like for you to live more open-handedly with your time, resources, or relationships?

Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-8 and Acts 20:35

Generosity is not just a command, it's an invitation into joy.

Paul writes that God loves a “cheerful giver,” highlighting the heart behind the action. Generosity, when rooted in grace, becomes life-giving. It leads to freedom from anxiety, control, and the constant need for more. And it leads to joy, the kind that comes from participating in God's work and blessing others.

This is the paradox of the Kingdom: in giving, we receive.

1. Have you experienced joy through generosity? What was that like?
2. What fears or pressures might hold people back from being generous?

Closing Reflection

Ask everyone to hold their hands open in front of them as a symbolic act of surrender and trust. Spend a moment in silence, reflecting on the questions below and inviting God to take any burdens and replace them with freedom and joy.

- Is there a specific way God is prompting you to live more generously?
- Is there something you need to release or trust God with?

Prayer

Gracious God, Thank you for your incredible generosity towards us. Thank you that you have given your love, your grace, your presence, and your Son. Everything we have comes from you.

Please shape our hearts to be more like yours. Help us to be people who live open-handedly, generous with our time, our resources, our encouragement, and our love. Where we have held on tightly out of fear or uncertainty, would you gently teach us to trust you more. Where we feel burdened or weighed down, would you bring freedom and lightness. And where we feel stirred, give us courage to respond.



Holy Spirit, lead us in the way of generosity. Open our eyes to the needs around us and help us to respond with compassion and kindness.

We offer ourselves again to you. Everything we are and everything we have. Use us for your purposes.

In Jesus' name,
Amen.