

Message Outline

GENEROUS GIVING
Acts 2:42-47

42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to prayer.

43 Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and signs were being performed through the apostles. 44 Now all the believers were together and held all things in common. 45 They sold their possessions and property and distributed the proceeds to all, as any had need. 46 Every day they devoted themselves to meeting together in the temple, and broke bread from house to house. They ate their food with joyful and sincere hearts, 47 praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. Every day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved. (Acts 2:42-47 CSB)

There are seven essentials to which the first believers devoted themselves.

(1) Apostles' teaching

(2) Fellowship

(3) Breaking of bread

(4) Prayer

(5) Giving or ministering to one another

(6) Praising God or worship

(7) Sharing the gospel or evangelism - *"the Lord added to their number those who were being saved"*.

- So far we have looked at the first four essentials: Apostles' teaching, Fellowship, Breaking of Bread and Prayer.
- Our focus is on "Giving or Ministering to One Another." This is the fifth essential of a growing church!
- Message title: "Generous Giving" - the most appropriate adjective to describe the attitude and action of the first believers as they met each other's needs and supported each other as a community of believers.

Questions:

➔ Can we describe our church, TBC, as a generous church?

➔ Can you describe your small group as a generous group?

➔ Can you describe yourself as a generous person and can others, those who know you, say the same thing about you?

Main Text: Acts 2:44-45

44 Now all the believers were together and held all things in common. 45 They sold their possessions and property and distributed the proceeds to all, as any had need. (Acts 2:44-45 CSB)

The Longer Version of Acts 2:44-45 is Acts 4:32-35

32 Now the entire group of those who believed were of one heart and mind, and no one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but instead they held everything in common. 33 With great power the apostles were giving testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was on all of them. 34 For there was not a needy person among them because all those who owned lands or houses sold them, brought the proceeds of what was sold, 35 and laid them at the apostles' feet. This was then distributed to each person as any had need. (Acts 4:32-35 CSB)

Example of Generosity: Pastor and a Farmer Friend

FOUR SIGNIFICANT POINTS ABOUT GENEROUS GIVING

- **Generous Giving is an Inner Transformational Work of the Holy Spirit.**
- **Generous Giving Focuses on Meeting the Needs of Others.**
- **Generous Giving Generates Happiness in Both the Givers and Recipients.**
- **Generous Giving is an Investment with Eternal Impact.**

1. **Generous Giving is an Inner Transformational Work of the Holy Spirit.**

37 When they (Jews listening to Peter's sermon) heard this, they were pierced to the heart and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?" 38 Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, each of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:37-38 CSB)

The "this" in verse 37 refers to the message of Peter that started in verse 14, but specifically to verse 36, ***"Therefore let all the house of Israel know with certainty that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah."*** (Acts 2:36 CSB)

And we see that ***"those who accepted his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand people were added to them."*** (Acts 2:41 CSB)

- The new believers became the first members of the first church that was established.
- The church grew to become a generous church, which can only be described by the work of the Holy Spirit.
- Giving in general and generous giving in particular is an attitude issue more than a money issue. It is a heart issue more than a pocket issue!

Jesus says, ***"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Matthew 6:21 CSB)***

2. **Generous Giving Focuses on Meeting the Needs of Others.**

They sold their possessions and property and distributed the proceeds to all, as any had need. (Acts 2:45 CSB)

Penguins and Their Babies

3. **Generous Giving Generates Happiness in Both the Givers and the Recipients.**

They ate their food with joyful and sincere hearts". (Acts 2:46c CSB)

"It is more blessed to give than to receive." (Acts 20:35b, CSB)

- The word, "blessed", is translated from the Greek word, "*makarion*." It literally means, "happy."
- In this context, inner happiness comes from active and selfless acts of service to others, specifically by sharing of our treasures, talents and time.

<u>Hudson Taylor and Happiness</u>

Hudson Taylor, a nineteenth-century missionary to China, lived a simple life, giving away two-thirds of his income. He said, "My experience was that the less I spent on myself and the more I gave to others, the fuller of happiness and blessing did my soul become." (Source: www.epm.org)

<u>The Happiest Being: GOD</u>

- ❖ Do you know who the happiest person or being is in the entire universe?
- ❖ God is the most generous giver!

From the original creation until the establishment of the new creation, and in between in accomplishing our salvation, God was, has been and will continue to be generous!

- **The Generous God and the Original Creation**
  After God had created the first man, Adam and woman, Eve,
  28 God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, and subdue it. Rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, and every creature that crawls on the earth." 29 God also said, "Look, I have <u>GIVEN</u> you every seed-bearing plant on the surface of the entire earth and every tree whose fruit contains seed. This will be food for you, 30 for all the wildlife of the earth, for every bird of the sky, and for every creature that crawls on the earth—everything having the breath of life in it—I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. (Genesis 1:28-30 CSB)

  God generously gives provision of food for all his creation!

- **The Generous God and the Price of Salvation**
  For God loved the world in this way: He <u>GAVE</u> his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16 CSB)

  God generously gave his Son, Jesus Christ, for our salvation!

- **The Generous God and The New Creation**
  5 Then the one seated on the throne said, "Look, I am making everything new." He also said, "Write, because these words are faithful and true." 6 Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. I will freely <u>GIVE</u> to the thirsty from the spring of the water of life. 7 The one who conquers will inherit these things, and I will be his God, and he will be my son. (Revelation 21:5-7 CSB)

  God generously gives to anyone who is in need of the true life to be ushered into the new creation!

4. **Generous Giving is an Investment with Eternal Impact.**

Every day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved. (Acts 2:47b CSB)

Jesus says, 19 "Don't store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal. 20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves don't break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. (Matthew 6:19-21 CSB)

Kraft and Investment

L. Kraft, head of the Kraft Cheese Corp., who had given approximately 25% of his enormous income to Christian causes for many years, said, "The only investment I ever made which has paid consistently increasing dividends is the money I have given to the Lord." (www:family-times.net, Source Unknown).

The Generous Giving of the First Members of Tokyo Baptist Church

- The late Dub Jackson, the founding pastor of Tokyo Baptist Church, in his book, "Whatever It Takes", recalls how TBC came into existence by the guidance and grace of God.
- In 1957, at their first meeting with the agenda of planting a church, 27 persons attended and expressed interest in starting the church.
- *"Our number one priority would be winning Japan to Christ and building a church that would serve as an example for all Japan and Asia."*
- *"Every member began giving sacrificially… It would require total commitment!"*

❖ Since her founding, for the last 67 years, many faithful pastors and church leaders, and thousands of committed believers have given and served the Lord through the ministries and missions of TBC.

Conclusion

- ➔ Will you and I become generous givers, and for some of us continue to be generous givers, for the future of our church for the glory of God?
- ➔ Will we give generously for the purpose of reaching people and seeing them saved and changed by the Gospel of Christ?
- ➔ Will we give generously for the future building of TBC to impact the next generation of believers in Japan and all over the world?

TBC Family, let's be a generous giving church! May the Lord daily add to our number those who are being saved. Amen!

Let's pray!

Jo Kaminaga (Joel)
Tokyo Baptist Church
January 4&5, 2025

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Thank you for visiting. Please send an email to gift@tokyobaptist.org for a free gift.

First time guest Connection:

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If you would like to believe in Jesus or have questions about baptism, let us know!

Email: cc@tokyobaptist.org or visit https://t-b-c.us/cc to let us know!

TBC Life SIGN-UP

weekly email news

http://t-b-c.us/tbclife

UPCOMING TBC BASE CLASSES

class 301 Ministry	class 401 Mission	class 101 Membership
Jan 19th (Sun) 1:00 - 5:00pm	Feb 9th (Sun) 1:00 - 5:00pm	Feb 16th (Sun) 1:00 - 5:00pm

Please visit https://t-b-c.us/classes to REGISTER

Small Groups Information

SG Lesson
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