

THE Big 3

EPISODE: 154

TITLE: How We Can Be More Generous People

None of us were born with a single possession. We all started off naked. Everything we have in life—family, intelligence, education, money, homes... EVERYTHING—has been added to our lives by God. What we do with all of it, that's another story. Amazingly, God leaves that in our hands.

Here are three key things to believe and consider when considering how to live a more generous life...

1. **God has given all of us SO MANY resources...** we weren't born with them... and God certainly wants us to be blessed by and enjoy the things he gives us. But, how will we then choose to use these resources to bless others and show them God's generosity throughout the rhythms of our normal life? Have you ever prayed and asked God who and how He wants you to display and share His generosity?
2. **You cannot serve God and Mammon... and mammon is basically the "stuff god"**. For so many people—including Christians—they clearly worship their stuff more than God as evidenced by how they use or spend their resources. And so then when we ask those people in our churches or communities to give, or be generous to others we are in fact asking them to give away their "god"... No way! Think about the stuff in your life that it would "kill you" to live without. Could be some mammon lurking there.
3. **Remember and rehearse God's abundant generosity in your life and let it motivate your generosity with others.** (Like the illustration of those friends who put it all on large post-it notes on the wall.) Plan generosity into your budget and lifestyle. It's not about the amount, like the widow giving her 2 mites/cents, it's about living out the generosity we have received from God—magnified in and through Christ— with others' intentionality. Not just when we are roped into it or get around to it. Bounce your last check... you can't take it with you!

Practicing generosity will loosen your grip on the "mammon" in your life, and it is a blast to bless people when they least expect it. Let's have as much joy with our generosity as Jesus did :-)

Thanks for listening... we'll see you in the next episode!

Caesar & Heath

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