

Generous God

June 8, 2025 | Ryan Pfeiffer | June 8, 2025

FOCUS. In Today's passage thru Jesus we see the generous heart of God. And in Zacchaeus we hear the call to a generous life.

GENEROUS GOD. 5 When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today.

7 Everyone who saw the incident was indignant and grumped, "What business does he have getting cozy with this crook? (The Message).

Jesus choice to associate w/ Zacchaeus scandalized him... offended them!
It was an act of radical generosity to absorb the cost of Zacc's bad rep!
Jesus reveals that the generosity of God is rooted in what Bible calls GRACE!

"Grace is the free, undeserved goodness and favor of God to mankind." Charles Spurgeon.

It's that free, undeserved goodness that moved Jesus toward Zacc!
Highlight 2 facets to God's Grace that Jesus shows us here:

Prevenient Grace. The way God reveals himself to draw us near.
Titus 2:11 For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people.

Saving Grace. The awakening of our souls to the love of God in Jesus. Ephesians 2:4 Because of his great love for us, God who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions— it is by grace you have been saved.

God's generosity is...
Joyful
Reckless
Threatening

God's generosity will with either change us or offend us.

GENEROUS LIFE. 8 But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount.

BUT what's the picture the Bible gives us through Zacchaeus?

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FIRST: Joyful, Exuberant quality. He doesn't go home and calculate!

Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Cor 9:7

Cheerful...(ἡλάρος) hilaros... where we get the word hilarious... sheer delight!

SECOND: It's Practical. He offers up his money! Doesn't simply apologize!

Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. 16 If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? James 2:15

Randy Alcorn— "There is a powerful relationship between our true spiritual condition and our attitude and actions concerning money and possessions"

THIRD: Worshipful. It comes as a response to Jesus' generous heart.

Worship is giving back to God a portion of what he's given us.

Its the recognition that all we have is from HIM and FOR Him.

Every act of generosity centers Christ on the throne of our lives!

Jesus— "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Matt 6:21.