Introduction:

A familiar story that is often misunderstood and misapplied.

1As he looked up, Jesus saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury. 2He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. 3"I tell you the truth," he said, "this poor widow has put in more than all the others. 4All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on."


Breakthrough Concept #4

God does not measure generosity by the size of our gift, but by the size of our sacrifice.
The Christmas Story: A Graduate Course in Generosity

Your Money
The Magi
Matthew 2:11

Your Time
The Shepherds
Luke 2:15-17

Your Reputation
Joseph
Matthew 1:18-24

Your Future
Mary
Luke 1:26-38

Your Life
Jesus
Mark 10:45

Your Most Precious Possession
The Father
John 3:16

Selected Scriptures

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Three Observations:

1. Generosity is not so much a virtuous act, as it is a virtuous _________________.

2. God does not measure generosity by the size of our gift, but by the size of our _________________.

3. Increasing levels of generosity bring increasing levels of _________________.

Generosity is to Love as Thunder is to Lightning:

“Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”

Luke 6:38 (NIV)
A Special Guest with a Special Story:

1. Generosity always begins with God; it is the visible expression of His infinite, incomprehensible love for us.

   James 1:17

   **Question:** Are you living with the constant awareness that you are the object of God’s infinite and unconditional love?

   **Application:** List 25 specific blessings from God before the end of the week and share them with a friend.

2. Our generosity is the visible expression of our love (response to God’s love) for God.

   John 14:21

   **Question:** Where are you on your generosity journey with God? What “next step” do you sense God’s Spirit prompting you to take?

   **Application:** Ask God to show you a specific way to stretch your generosity muscle and where and what He directs you to give.

3. Generous living begins with the “training wheels” of money and possessions and graduates to making our “very lives” a gift to God as a perpetual act of worship.

   Romans 12:1-2

   **Question:** Why is it so critical to remember that God wants the very best for us as we grow in our generosity?

   **Application:** Memorize Romans 12:1-2 this week.