



## WHO'S RIGHT - JESUS OR THE WORLD?

**The World says...** The more stuff you get, the more stuff you have, the happier you will be.

**Jesus says...** *"There is more happiness in giving than in receiving."* — Acts 20:35 (the words of Jesus)

Check out this 5-minute video from Bible Project:  
[bibleproject.com/videos/wealth-and-worry/](http://bibleproject.com/videos/wealth-and-worry/)

## KEY SCRIPTURES

*"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth... For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."*

— Matthew 6:19-21

*"The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy (generous), your whole body will be full of light... You cannot serve both God and money."*

— Matthew 6:22-24

*"Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart... for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly so that you will abound in every good work... You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion."*

— 2 Corinthians 9:6-11

## WHAT THE RESEARCH SHOWS

Social science over the last few decades confirms what Jesus declared 2,000 years ago. Generous people are:

- **Happier:** Report significantly higher life satisfaction.
- **Healthier:** Stronger immune systems, better physical health and longer life expectancy.
- **Less Anxious:** Lower rates of anxiety and depression.
- **More Connected:** Laugh more, feel less alone, build deeper bonds.

*"People rightly say that money cannot buy happiness. But happiness can be the result, not of spending more money on oneself, but rather of giving money away to others... the data show this to be not simply a nice idea but a social-scientific fact."*

— The Paradox of Generosity, Smith & Davidson (Oxford University Press)

*"If a person gets his attitude toward money straight, it will help straighten out almost every other area in his life."*

— Billy Graham

## SUMMARY

Everyone instinctually / usually chases MORE. We believe we need more to be happy and safe, but more never satisfies. To understand why, we start at the beginning. In Genesis 1-2, God creates a world of abundance and freely gives it to humanity. God is a happy, generous God — not just in what he does, but in who he is. Generosity is not a command added to his nature; it IS his nature.

But in Genesis 3, the serpent planted a lie — shifting Eve's gaze from all she had to the one thing she lacked. This introduced a scarcity mindset: the fear that there is never enough, leading to greed, discontentment, and closed hands.

Jesus describes two ways of seeing the world (Matthew 6): a **scarcity mindset** that sees the world as dangerous and godless, and an **abundance mindset** that sees God as Father and Provider.

**The practice of generosity** is the pathway out — a spiritual discipline by which we LEAD our hearts away from scarcity toward the abundance mindset of Jesus. Every act of giving declares: *"I trust God's provision, not just my savings. I want to join God in blessing others, trusting that He will take care of me"*.

## REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. What fears or desires keep you from being generous?
2. How would your life be different if you were free of the fear of not having enough?
3. Who is the most generous person you know — are they experiencing joy, peace and contentment? What about the most stingy person you know? On a scale of 10 (generous) to 1 (stingy)... how would you rate your level of generosity?

## PRAYER POINTS

**Gratitude** — Thank God for his lavish generosity — every good gift, every provision, every blessing.

**Confession** — Confess the ways you have believed the scarcity lie — hoarding, fearing, gripping tightly.

**Openness** — Ask the Holy Spirit to re-orient your heart from a scarcity mindset to the abundance mindset of Jesus.

**Others** — God open my eyes to the needs around me. Father give me 1 opportunity this week to join you in blessing someone with my simple act of generosity.