

Week 4: The Generous Life

Overview: What kind of story will your life tell? In this moment before Jesus' death, Mary didn't hold back – she gave her most treasured possession not to impress others, but to honor Jesus. Her simple, bold act of generosity is still remembered thousands of years later. This message challenges students to think beyond moments and start building a life of meaning, impact, and legacy.

Key Scripture: John 12:1-8

Note: this is a similar story as what was discussed in week 1 - we just have different context now, and are applying it further.

Supporting Scripture: Romans 12:1-2, 1 Corinthians 1:27, Proverbs 11:25, 2 Timothy 4:7-8

CONTENT

Key Takeaway: A generous life is a life that points to Jesus. What you give to Jesus today can echo long after you're gone. Your generosity should outlive you.

Key Points

- A life of generosity is a life of worship.
 - Mary gave what was costly because Jesus was worth it (v. 3). It was extravagant not because of the dollar amount, but because of the love behind it.
 - Martha was working for the Lord – Mary was worshipping the Lord.
 - Real generosity honors God even when others don't understand
 - It wasn't practical or expected – it was personal and worshipful.
 - Her generosity wasn't about what she gave away – it was about who she gave it to.
 - Romans 12:1-2: Offer your life as worship (referenced this the first week as well)
- Generosity often looks foolish in the moment.
 - Judas criticized the gift; Jesus praised it. (vv. 4-8)
 - The world often mocks what heaven celebrates.
 - Living generously won't always make sense – but it always matters.
 - 1 Corinthians 1:27 – God uses the foolish to shame the wise.
- Your legacy is shaped by what you give away, not what you keep
 - Jesus says what Mary did would be remembered. (Matt 26:13)
 - Generosity is about investment – not just giving. What you invest in today is shaping who you'll become and what you'll be known for.
 - When you live for eternity and live sacrificially, you will leave a legacy.
 - Proverbs 11:25: a generous person will prosper.
 - 2 Tim 4:7-8: finish the race, keep the faith, live for the crown that lasts.

Gospel Application: Mary poured out what was costly, but Jesus poured out everything. Her perfume filled the room, but His sacrifice would fill eternity. He gave His life so we could live ours with freedom, purpose, and a new identity. When we live generously, we reflect the heart of Jesus – the One who gave it all for us.

Key Question: What kind of legacy are you building? Is it one that points to Jesus?

APPLICATION

Activity Suggestions

- 2026 Vision board: students write a vision statement for the kind of generous people they want to be in the new year.
- “Live to Give” Commitment sheet: have each student commit to one habit they will implement that help them to live as generous people.
- Generosity Testimony: invite students to share what they’ve given this month and what God has taught them.
- Campaign: start a generosity campaign to be completed by Thanksgiving – how can this generation give tangibly to one of our local or global partners?

Community Group Questions

- What’s one way you want to be remembered when people talk about your life?
- What does it look like to live a generous life every day, not just during this series when we’re talking about it regularly?
- What are you holding tightly that God might be asking you to release?
- What habit can you start now that would help you live more generously in 2026?