

Generosity - Overcoming the Scarcity Mindset

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Abundance vs Scarcity Choosing How We Live

Before we can fully embrace and then begin to live out the dream God has for our lives we must recognize the generosity of God toward us. And we must learn to live as stewards of the Generosity.

John 10:10 (NJKV) "The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

- The Scarcity mindset views everything as a risk
- The Abundance mindset views everything as an opportunity

John 3:16 (NLT) "For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.

God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son

- The Scarcity mindset hoards
- The Abundance mindset invests
 - What are you intentionally giving away, investing in someone else?

Luke 12:16-18 (NLT) Then he told them a story: "A rich man had a fertile farm that produced fine crops. ¹⁷ He said to himself, 'What should I do? I don't have room for all my crops.' ¹⁸ Then he said, 'I know! I'll tear down my barns and build bigger ones. Then I'll have room enough to store all my wheat and other goods.

"Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can."

- John Wesley

"There cannot be a surer rule, nor a stronger exhortation to the observance of it, than when we are taught that all the endowments which we possess are divine deposits entrusted to us for the very purpose of being distributed for the good of our neighbor."

— John Calvin

Devine Deposits

2 Peter 1:3-4 (NLT) By his divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life. We have received all of this by coming to know him, the one who called us to himself by means of his marvelous glory and excellence.

- The Scarcity mindset operates on Fear
- The Abundance mindset operates on Faith

2 Timothy 1:7 (NLT) For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline.

- The Scarcity mindset is the reason we don't do more for the kingdom.

The Scarcity mindset is the reason we don't give more to the kingdom.

“I believe with all of my heart that God's people possess God's provision to accomplish and fulfill God's purposes in the world.”

— Joel Vestal

“One man gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want.”

— Proverbs 11:24

Matthew 25:14-30 (NLT) “Again, the Kingdom of Heaven can be illustrated by the story of a man going on a long trip. He called together his servants and entrusted his money to them while he was gone. ¹⁵ He gave five bags of silver to one, two bags of silver to another, and one bag of silver to the last—dividing it in proportion to their abilities. He then left on his trip.

¹⁶ “The servant who received the five bags of silver began to invest the money and earned five more. ¹⁷ The servant with two bags of silver also went to work and earned two more. ¹⁸ But the servant who received the one bag of silver dug a hole in the ground and hid the master's money.

¹⁹ “After a long time their master returned from his trip and called them to give an account of how they had used his money. ²⁰ The servant to whom he had entrusted the five bags of silver came forward with five more and said, ‘Master, you gave me five bags of silver to invest, and I have earned five more.’ ²¹ “The master was full of praise. ‘Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let's celebrate together!’ ²² “The servant who had received the two bags of silver came forward and said, ‘Master, you gave me two bags of silver to invest, and I have earned two more.’ ²³ “The master said, ‘Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small

amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let's celebrate together!' ²⁴ "Then the servant with the one bag of silver came and said, 'Master, I knew you were a harsh man, harvesting crops you didn't plant and gathering crops you didn't cultivate. ²⁵ I was afraid I would lose your money, so I hid it in the earth. Look, here is your money back.' ²⁶ "But the master replied, 'You wicked and lazy servant! If you knew I harvested crops I didn't plant and gathered crops I didn't cultivate, ²⁷ why didn't you deposit my money in the bank? At least I could have gotten some interest on it.' ²⁸ "Then he ordered, 'Take the money from this servant, and give it to the one with the ten bags of silver. ²⁹ To those who use well what they are given, even more will be given, and they will have an abundance. But from those who do nothing, even what little they have will be taken away. ³⁰ Now throw this useless servant into outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

Jesus had just spoke about the man who had been given 5 gained 5 more likewise the guy who had given two gained 2 more but the man who had been given one had a scarcity mindset and buried it.

To those who use well what they are given, even more will be given, and they will have an abundance. But from those who do nothing, even what little they have will be taken away.

- Matthew 25:29

- The Scarcity mindset looks only at what we can do
- The Abundance mindset looks at what God can do through us.
- The Scarcity mindset says, "I'm going to fail so why try"

—For as he thinks in his heart, so is he.

- Proverbs 23:7a

- The Abundance mindset looks at what God can do through us.

—"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

- Philippians 4:13

- The Scarcity mindset ask why?
- The Abundance mindset ask why not?

"The world asks, 'What does a man own?' Christ asks, 'How does he use it?'"

— **Andrew Murray**

"Stewardship is the act of organizing your life so that God can spend you."

— **Lynn A. Miller**