

DARE TO HOPE: Be Generous

August 23, 2026

Message Summary.

God is generous, and so people who reflect His character become generous too.

Generosity includes our words, time, service, influence, money, and possessions. Jesus teaches that where we put our treasure, our heart follows. God wants our heart.

Key Scripture Summaries.

Matthew 6:21 | Where we put our treasure reveals and directs our heart.

John 3:16 | God's love is demonstrated through generosity: He loved the world, so He gave His Son.

2 Corinthians 9:6-8 | God calls us to give willingly and cheerfully, trusting Him to provide what we need to abound in every good work.

Proverbs 3:9-10 | We honor God by putting Him first with what He has entrusted to us.

Mark 12:41-44 | Jesus commends a poor widow whose small sacrificial gift demonstrated extraordinary trust.

Start Talking.

1. Who is one of the most generous people you've known? What made that person stand out?
2. Growing up, what did your family teach you, intentionally or unintentionally, about money and generosity?
3. Which is easiest for you to be generous with: your money, time, words, possessions, service, or influence? Which is hardest?

Start Thinking.

- Why do you think Jesus connects our treasure so closely to our heart?
- What is the difference between giving God our leftovers and putting God first?
- Why can generosity with money feel more personal or difficult than generosity with our words or time?
- How does remembering God's generosity toward us change the way we view what we possess?
- What does 2 Corinthians 9:6-8 teach about our attitude toward giving? What does it not promise?

- How can generosity become an act of trust?
- What does the widow in Mark 12 teach us about the difference between the amount we give and the heart behind our giving?



Start Sharing.

1. Which part of this week's message challenged or encouraged you the most?
2. If someone looked only at how you use your money, time, and resources, what might they conclude matters most to you?
3. Have you ever taken a step of generosity that required you to trust God? What happened?
4. Have you experienced a season when God unexpectedly provided for you?
5. Where are you most tempted to hold tightly to what God has entrusted to you?
6. If you already put God first financially, where might God be asking you to go beyond and grow in generosity?
7. What is one resource God has placed in your hands (money, time, ability, influence, possessions, encouragement) that you could use to bless someone else?

Start Praying.

Father, thank You for being generous with us. Everything we have comes from You, and the greatest gift You have given is Jesus. Help us trust You. Show us where we are holding tightly to what You have placed in our hands. Teach us to put You first and become generous with our money, time, words, service, influence, and everything You have entrusted to us. Make us people of hope who reflect Your heart to the world around us. In Jesus' name, amen.

Start Doing.

- Take the 90-Day Challenge: Give the first portion of what God provides back to Him through the local church, or go beyond and practice intentional generosity this week.