



PART 3: First Things First

INTRODUCTION

Everyone gives something somewhere to someone. But that only masks the fact that we don't know how to be generous. Generosity isn't about *how* to give. It is more than random acts of giving. Persuasive people can inspire or guilt us into giving. But generous people don't need to be sold or guilted. They plan to give. If you choose to become generous—to *plan to give*—you'll give more, consume less, and have more left over.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Are you a planner or do you tend to fly by the seat of your pants? How has that influenced the way you manage your finances?
2. Would you consider yourself a “3S Giver”—someone who gives spontaneously, sporadically, and sparingly? Do you agree that that kind of giving gets in the way of generosity? Why or why not?
3. During the message, Andy said, “*You give from a grateful heart or you give from a broken heart.*” To whom or what are you grateful? What causes or problems break your heart? What would it look like to say “yes” to those organizations, charities, or people?
4. Read 1 Corinthians 16:1–3. What is freeing about deciding for yourself what and where it is best to be generous? What is challenging about that kind of freedom?
5. What are some obstacles to you saving more, giving more, and spending less? What can you do to overcome those obstacles?
6. What is your best next step for making a plan to save more, give more, and spend less? How can this group support you?

MOVING FORWARD

Being radically generous may seem crazy, but Jesus said the alternative is crazier. It reduces you to an owner and a consumer. It leaves you discontented. And no matter what you choose, you will eventually lose possession of your stuff anyway. So choose your crazy. But remember: happy is the person whose life is ordered around giving rather than receiving.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Matthew 6:21