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| **SERIES** | **What Happens – Biblical Stewardship** |
| **BIBLE** | **Memory Verse** is Proverbs 3:9-10  **Contextual Verse** is Psalm 31:19 |
| **TITLE/TOPIC** | Generosity Ladder |
| **OVERVIEW** | Our God is an extravagant giver, and he expects us (his followers) to walk in extravagant generosity as a sign that He is set apart as having first place in our lives (hearts). This morning’s message will give you a biblical framework that will, when applied, move you into the “Blessing Zone” of biblical generosity. |
| **SCRIPTURE BREAKDOWN** | **Opening Generosity Ladder:** - Have Ladder on Stage (visual Ladder of giving – give once, give regularly, give proportionally, give sacrificially, give extravagantly)  **Five Types of Givers in Every Church:**  **Never Given** – Non-Givers  **1st Time Givers** – Initial Givers  **Regular Givers** – Systematic Givers – give every week but not necessarily tithers.  **Tithers** – Proportional Givers (Folks that live in the Blessing Zone – Malachi 3:10)  **Extravagant Givers** – Sacrificial Givers (Consistently Giving the tithe of above and at times give above and beyond the tithe.  *“I’ve never heard someone say that tithing is the worst decision they’ve ever made in their life.”*  **Opening Passage for Context:** God is Generous and Good.  *“Your goodness is so great! You have stored up great blessings for those who honor you. You have done so much for those who come to you...blessing them before the watching world.” – Psalm 31:19*  **This weeks Memory Verse: Proverbs 3:9-10**  *“Honor the Lord with your wealth,     with the firstfruits of all your crops;* ***10****then your barns will be filled to overflowing,     and your vats will brim over with new wine.”*  **Point #1 Bring God YOUR BEST.**  *“In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the LORD.”* – Genesis 4:3  **Point #2 – Bring God the FULL TITHE.**  *“Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me. But you ask, ‘How do we rob you?’ In tithes and offerings. You are under a curse - the whole nation of you - because you are robbing me.” – Malachi 3:8-9*  *“‘Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,’ says the LORD Almighty, ‘and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.’” – Malachi 3:10*  **Point #3 – Bring God the FIRST FRUITS**  “The first of the first-fruits of your land you shall bring into the house of the LORD your God.” – Exodus 23:19  “Now about the collection for God’s people: Do what I told the Galatian churches to do. On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income.”– 1 Corinthians 16:1-2  “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” – Matthew 6:21  Credit: Helps from Church Leader Insights and Searcy Coaching Network. Additional help from two Books Generosity Ladder and Generosity Secret (more for Lay People). Can buy books in bulk at [www.bakerbookhouse.com](http://www.bakerbookhouse.com)  **Other Pertinent Notes:**  **Theological basis** - the generosity of Almighty God!  The Apostolic view of giving – Act 2:42-47; Acts 4: 32-37 - All possession were viewed as “given to me by God for the good of others”.  When there was financial need, property was liquidated, and the cash given to the Apostles to be distributed as they were led by God.  Releasing wealth to God!  **II Corinthians 8-9** - Give in response to Jesus becoming poor so we might be rich.  Give freely, not under compulsion.  Give generously.  Many will give thanks to God because of your gift…  **Acts 20** - better to give than to receive |
| **GOSPEL** | John 3:16 – *“God Gave...”* |
| **NEXT**STEPS | Begin | Connect | Engage | Grow | Disciple  **“Stewardship is Discipleship”** –Stewardship is one aspect of biblical discipleship. As you grow in active and intentional stewardship you grow as a disciple of Jesus Christ. |