

**duplicating  
discipleship**

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the generosity of joseph

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## Lesson 10: The Generosity of Joseph

The Levite from Cyprus – Acts 4:32-5:12

[The more you give, the more comes back to you, because God is the greatest giver in the universe, and He won't let you outgive Him. Go ahead and try. See what happens.](#)  
[Randy Alcorn](#)

How many Joseph's in the Bible can you name?

Joseph the Levite is better known for his name Barnabbas.

What is the significance of him being called the Levite?

Why was he honored and known for among the early church community?

Is it possible to be “kind of” generous, or “kind of” selfish?

What was the impact of Barnabas gift upon the church?

What was the response among the early church to the generosity of Barnabas?

What does the phrase “laid at the apostles’ feet” mean?

When have you been encouraged by a generous gift?

Was Barnabas responsible for the actions of Ananias and Sapphira? Why or why not?

Acts 20:35 says it is more blessed to give than to receive. Why is that true?

**Application -**

- Barnabas served the Kingdom of God by giving up the most valuable thing he owned and giving the profits to the ministry of the apostles.
  - What are some ways you can give to support the church family besides money?
  
- Barnabas’ generosity proved his trust was in God, not his material possessions.
  - What helps us trust God enough in our own lives to give up the things we hold most dear?

Ananias and Sapphira wanted it to appear as if they were giving all that they had gained from selling their land to the apostles. But selfishly they held back some for themselves and tried to hide it. Hypocrisy has been a common charge hurled at the church for centuries, so how do you propose we deal with it?

Has there ever been a time where you knew God was calling you to give up something (whether it be money, possessions, a relationship, job, etc.) yet you didn't let go of all of it? Explain here.

An excellent example of generosity is seen in the story of The Good Samaritan in that he simply did more than he had to or than was expected of him. Do you believe we are fulfilling our calling if we merely "do our share", "do what is expected" or do "just enough to meet the need"?

Should we judge the "worthiness of the recipient" in our generous giving?

Is there a difference in seeking to meet "necessities" or "comforts"?

What does Paul's teaching on 1 Timothy 5:3-16 on caring for widows guide us in "wise" generosity?

Should we give “to he who asks of us” indiscriminately?

Modern-day Example of Generosity: Anonymous

This gentleman will remain unnamed-- he always wants to be unknown in his giving. For years he has helped through his finances to bless others in need. As far back as I can think, he would call me and express his desire to help with people who had financial needs. Sometimes he would call me and say, “Bruce, I’ve become aware of this person’s needs. If I gave you an envelope of cash on Sunday could you make sure that it gets to them anonymously?” He was not giving for a tax-receipt or recognition. He just wanted others to be blessed. His ability to give came out

of a deep loss in his life. He had a family member whose prescriptions and medical visits cost hundreds of dollars each month. After years of paying these kinds of expenses, his family member died and went to be with the Lord. He then related to me, that he was used to living without this money each month. He wanted the money that he had been spending each month to pay for medical expenses, to now go to helping others. He has helped with funeral expenses, sending children to camp, helping students in seminary pay their bills, paid for medications and medical expenses of others. He displays a generous spirit that is a mark of being a disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ.

