

The extravagant
generosity of Jesus
Part 2

Generosity and the Glory
of God
2/19/2012

“The whole earth is filled with his glory.” Is 6:3

How? Where? What does this mean?

A part of the glory of God is reveal by his generosity.

Glory of God = Generosity

Everyone loves a good gift. A gift speaks to us, haunts us.
It says to us that:

- I am special
- I am loved
- I am appreciated
- Someone has thought about me and what I need

“Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the
Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting
shadows.” James 1:17

I. The gift of Nature

Last week, we look at how God reveals himself through Nature.
Specifically, we looked at the Ocean and the waves.

Sunshine

Think about sunshine for a moment.

What does sunshine do for us? Or why do you appreciate
sunshine?

More energy is created by the sun in 1 second that mankind has
used since we arrived here on the earth. Yet for 24 hours a day, 7
days a week, 365 days a year, since the day the sun was hung its
place...the sun has shone. Brightly, powerfully, consistently the
sun has been there making our world what it is.

Now how often do we consider sunshine as a gift to us from our
Father? Most people never ever consider it much less consider that
sunshine is a generous and power example to us of the Generosity
of Jesus. The sun shines because of Jesus. He speaks one word to
the sun and it stops shining. Job understood this...

“He speaks to the sun and it does not shine; he seals off the light of
the stars.” Job 9:7

Really now, *what* do we have here? *Who* do we have here?

Consider our senses and how they are process the gift of sunshine
for us on a normal day.

Sight

Taste

Touch

“Whoever, therefore, is not enlightened by such splendor of
created things is blind; whoever is not awakened by such outcries
is deaf... Therefore, open your eyes, alert the ears of your spirit,
open your lips and apply your heart... Concerning the mirror of
things perceived through sensation, we can see God...in them, as
he is in them.” Bonaventure, “The Soul’s Journey into God”

If we had been alive when Jesus was here, we would discover that Jesus:

In seeing these 4 things, we would have seen a part of the Glory of God.

1. Helped people who no one else could help

“Two blind men were sitting by the roadside, and when they heard that Jesus was going by, they shouted, “Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us!” Matthew 20:30

“When Jesus came down from the mountainside, large crowds followed him. A man with leprosy came and knelt before him and said, “Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean.”
Matthew 8:1-2

“When Jesus got out of the boat, a man with an impure spirit came from the tombs to meet him.” Mark 5:2

2. Helped people who came to him with their needs

When Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to him, asking for help.” Matthew 8:5

Then one of the synagogue leaders, named Jairus, came, and when he saw Jesus, he fell at his feet. He pleaded earnestly with him, “My little daughter is dying. “Please come and put your hands on her so that she will be healed and live.” Mark 5:22-23

3. Helped people who he saw had a need

“When Jesus came into Peter’s house, he saw Peter’s mother-in-law lying in bed with a fever.” Matthew 8:14

4. People were drawn to Jesus

“A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home. They gathered in such large numbers that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them.” Mark 2:1-2

“Jesus withdrew with his disciples to the lake, and a large crowd from Galilee followed.” Mark 3:7

“Then Jesus entered a house, and again a crowd gathered, so that he and his disciples were not even able to eat.” Mark 3:20

“He entered a house and did not want anyone to know it; yet he could not keep his presence secret. In fact, as soon as she heard about him, a woman whose little daughter was possessed by an impure spirit came and fell at his feet.” Mark 7:24-25

Why were people so drawn to Jesus? Different reasons, I would guess, but the same underlying character quality of his life still draws us today, his incredible, lavish and extravagant generosity.

Late into the night, early in the morning, walking down the road, in the middle of his supper, while on a trip, Jesus offers.

- His time
- His words
- His touch
- His life

To appreciate the reality of it all, remember, this is not Superman. Remember his loneliness, his weariness, his humanity.

- Don’t you think Jesus must have missed his father?
- Missed being in Heaven?
- Missed riding on the clouds?

This is utterly remarkable – especially in light of the fact that this is a man on a life-or-death mission to save the world!

Generosity is attractive; therefore, stinginess must be repulsive.