

BEST CHRISTMAS EVER

CHOOSE GENEROSITY

12.08.19

THE WISE MEN'S GIFTS

⁹...the star they had seen in the east guided them to Bethlehem. It went ahead of them and stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they were filled with joy! ¹¹They entered the house and saw the child with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasure chests and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Matthew 2:1-12, Selected

WHEN WE'RE GENEROUS...

1. We acknowledge the true _____ of all things = God

"The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it. The world and all its people belong to him." Ps. 24:1

"...all the world is mine and everything in it." Psalm 50:12

2. We recognize our _____ as stewards

"Tell them [v. 17 – "those who are rich in this world"] to use their money to do good. They should be rich in good works and generous to those in need, always being ready to share with others." 1 Timothy 6:18

"Until we truly grasp that God owns everything and that we're stewards, we won't be generous givers." Randy Alcorn

"Delayed giving is delayed obedience." Randy Alcorn

3. We become more like _____

[Jesus] *"It is more blessed to give than to receive."* Acts 20:35

"Giving is not only God's command – it's also an act of love for him and our neighbors, fulfilling his two greatest mandates."
Randy Alcorn

4. We gain _____ from materialism

Jesus said, *"Beware! Guard against every kind of greed. Life is not measured by how much you own."* Luke 12:15, NLT

"A person is a fool to store up earthly wealth but not have a rich relationship with God." Luke 12:21

5. We experience _____

"Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be." Matthew 6:21

"Our hearts will always follow our money." Randy Alcorn

"Surprisingly, the Bible doesn't talk much about how giving changes the lives of its recipients. More often, it talks about what giving does for the one who gives." Randy Alcorn

"When we allow ourselves to be vessels of God's generosity and love, those on the receiving end experience joy, and we experience the pleasure of seeing God at work through us."
Randy Alcorn

"Generosity is a gateway to intimacy with God." Mart Green, son of David Green, founder of Hobby Lobby

6. We receive _____

"Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full—pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back." Luke 6:38

"Teach those who are rich in this world not to be proud and not to trust in their money, which is so unreliable. Their trust should be in God, who richly gives us all we need for our enjoyment. Tell them to use their money to do good. They should be rich in good works and generous to those in need, always being ready to share with others. By doing this they will be storing up their treasure as a good foundation for the future so that they may experience true life." 1 Timothy 6:17-19

BE GENEROUS...

1. Ask God, "What do you want me to do with your money and possessions?"
2. Ask God, "What should I but and not buy with your money?"
3. Ask God, "How much do you want me to keep, and how much do you want me to give?"
4. Ask God, "In light of all the needs globally and locally, where and to whom do you want me to give?"