

## Happy, Abundant, and Generous!

### **I. The Law of Sowing and Reaping (II Corinthians 9:6-15)**

- A. Taking a step back to notice the joy of this passage
- B. God is the most generous of all; He is also the happiest. When we give, we enter into the life of the “indefinable gift” (II Corinthians 9:15).

### **II. There is a cost to generosity—death before life, loss before gain, risk before reward (John 12:23, 24).**

- A. Giving seems to be a contradiction but offers great reward. The natural order understands. The world system (that Satan runs) does not understand.
- B. The key here is that Jesus gave and received more (John 12:24). There was joy in that choice and after choice (Hebrews 12:2; 1:8, 9).
- C. A picture of the Christian life (Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23)

### **III. Investing with God (Matthew 25:14-30)**

- A. Sharing the Master’s happiness (Matthew 25:21, 23)
- B. Is God a hard man, limited in His affections, stingy, taking what is not His (Matthew 25:24)?
  - 1. Sometimes we get a fearful, limited view of God—no relationship, no joy, no motivation (Matthew 25:25-27)
  - 2. What God really wants for you (Matthew 25:28, 29)

### **IV. Experiencing the “good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over” God (Luke 6:37, 38)**

- A. Two other giving words are the key to this kind of life
  - 1. “Forgiving” (vs. 37)
  - 2. The other is “thanksgiving.” Both terms cost you something but pay rich dividends (Philippians 4:4-9)
- B. Testing the happy, generous, abundant God (Malachi 3:8-18)
  - 1. The floodgates of heaven, delightful, blessed
  - 2. Getting rid of the wrong attitudes (harsh things) (Malachi 3:13-15)
  - 3. The scroll of remembrance (Malachi 3:16)
  - 4. Living with distinction (the blessing) (Malachi 3:17, 18)

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January 30, 2022*