



THANKS+GIVING
Part 1: "Born This Way"

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**TO START BECOMING THE GENEROUS
PERSON I REBORN TO BE, I HAVE TO...**

1. ...PASS THE TESTS GOD GIVES ME

"Six days before the Passover began, Jesus went back to Bethany, the town where he raised Lazarus from the dead. They had prepared a supper for Jesus. Martha served, and Lazarus and Mary were among those at the table. Mary picked up an alabaster jar filled with nearly a liter of extremely rare and costly perfume—the purest extract of nard, and she anointed Jesus' feet. Then she wiped them dry with her long hair. And the fragrance of the costly oil filled the house. But Judas the locksmith, Simon's son, the betrayer, spoke up and said, 'What a waste! We could have sold this perfume for a fortune and given the money to the poor!' (In fact, Judas had no heart for the poor. He only said this because he was a thief and in charge of the money case.

He would steal money whenever he wanted from the funds given to support Jesus' ministry.) Jesus said to Judas, 'Leave her alone! She has saved it for the time of my burial. You'll always have the poor with you; but you won't always have me.'"

John 12:1-8 (TPT)

"The one who manages the little he has been given with faithfulness and integrity will be promoted and trusted with greater responsibilities. But those who cheat with the little they have been given will not be considered trustworthy to receive more. If you have not handled the riches of this world with integrity, why should you be trusted with the eternal treasures of the spiritual world? And if you've not been proven faithful with what belongs to another, why should you be given wealth of your own? It is impossible for a person to serve two masters at the same time. You will be forced to love one and reject the other. One master will be despised and the other will have your loyal devotion. It is no different with God and the wealth of this world. You must enthusiastically love one and definitively reject the other."

Luke 16:10-14 (TPT)

"As Jesus looked up, he saw some rich people putting their gifts into the Temple money box. Then he saw a poor widow putting two small copper coins into the box."

He said, 'I tell you the truth, this poor widow gave more than all those rich people. They gave only what they did not need. This woman is very poor, but she gave all she had to live on.'"

Luke 21:1-4 (NCV)

2. ...KILL THE FEAR THAT FEEDS MY GREED

"It is possible to give away and become richer! It is also possible to hold on too tightly and lose everything. Yes, the liberal man shall be rich! By watering others, he waters himself."

Proverbs 11:24-25 (TLB)

3. ...MEMORIZE THE SECRET SAUCE OF THE BLESSED

"This generous God who supplies abundant seed for the farmer, which becomes bread for our meals, is even more extravagant toward you. First he supplies every need, plus more. Then he multiplies the seed as you sow it, so that the harvest of your generosity will grow. You will be abundantly enriched in every way as you give generously on every occasion, for when we take your gifts to those in need, it causes many to give thanks to God."

3.

The priestly ministry you are providing through your offering not only supplies what is lacking for God's people, it inspires an outpouring of praises and thanksgiving to God himself."

2 Corinthians 9:10-12 (TPT)

"Remember: A stingy planter gets a stingy crop; a lavish planter gets a lavish crop. I want each of you to take plenty of time to think it over, and make up your own mind what you will give. That will protect you against sob stories and arm-twisting. God loves it when the giver delights in the giving."

2 Corinthians 9:7 (MSG)

"Give generously and generous gifts will be given back to you, shaken down to make room for more. Abundant gifts will pour out upon you with such an overflowing measure that it will run over the top! Your measurement of generosity becomes the measurement of your return."

Luke 6:38 (TPT)