

Meeting 6.1



Module 6 outcome: The disciple embodies the freedom of generosity.

DISCUSS the resource, *Reading Parables*. It may be helpful to have the Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25–37) open in front of you as well.

1. What are “points of reference” in a parable? Which ones are most important for us to understand in order to “get” this parable? Why?
2. What was your reaction to the “modern” retelling of the parable at the end of the essay? How does saying it like this help us hear the parable as Jesus meant it to be heard?
3. In Luke 10:29, it says that the teacher of the law “wanted to justify himself.” What is meant here? In what ways do we act similarly when it comes to the topic of generosity?
4. In verse 33, it says that the Samaritan “took pity on” the wounded man (NLT). The NASB translation says he “felt compassion” for him. Would you say that generosity must always begin with compassion? If so, what breaks your heart?
5. It may be difficult to see how generosity could be defined as “freedom” (as we do in the outcome for this module). However, consider the examples of the Priest, the Levite, and the Samaritan in this parable. Even though the Samaritan lost quite a bit in the process of helping the wounded man (in the form of time and money), in what sense was he more “free” than the Priest and Levite?
6. Whenever we hear someone preach on the topic of generosity, there is often a “kickback” from God that is implied (or in some cases, downright promised). This “kickback” might be in the form of more wealth or health or success, insisting, “If you give, God will multiply his blessings upon you!”



Yet, it seems clear that the Samaritan could not have expected anything in return for his generosity. He just did it because it was... right. At the end of the parable, Jesus says, “Go and do likewise.”

Since the Samaritan did not expect a reward for his generosity, that means that when *we* expect a reward after we are generous, we are failing to do “likewise.”

Why would anyone want to live generously when there is no promise of reward?

ASSIGNMENT: Complete the Addiction Inventory, located on the Module 6 resource page. Journal your responses and return to your next meeting ready to discuss it with your discipler.

