

Introduction: The amazing John Saville!

Our “Secret Pact”

- John had a desire!
- I had an opportunity!
- We made a deal!

Three things happened in my life:

1. Rarely a day went by that I didn't think of John. Every need raised the question - “What would John want me to do?”
2. I strangely became far more meticulous about balancing “his checkbook” than my own.
3. John and I became best friends as he bought extravagant lunches and I told extraordinary stories at our quarterly celebrations.



Bright Idea

To be smart, spend carefully. To be wise, save regularly.
To be genius, give extravagantly.

Four reasons it's genius to be generous:

1. Generosity **CHANGES** our lives.

Acts 20:35
Proverbs 11:25

2. Generosity **CONNECTS** us with others.

3. Generosity helps us **INVEST** in what matters.

¹⁹ "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. ²² The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are good, your whole body will be full of light. ²³ But if your eyes are bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness! ²⁴ No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money."

Matthew 6:19-24

4. Generosity **FREES** our hearts.

Question: If generosity is so smart, why isn't everyone doing it?

- Because **WEALTH** is powerful and deceptive. Matthew 13:22
- Because of the lure of **MAMMON** worship. Matthew 6:24
- Because it demands **FAITH**. Matthew 6:19
- Because of temporal myopia. Matthew 6:23

Breakthrough Concept #1

Generosity is the gateway to intimacy with God.

Application: Three questions brilliant people ask

1. Am I using the money entrusted to me in accordance with the **OWNER'S** wishes?
2. Am I carefully keeping account of where all the **OWNER'S** funds are going?
3. Am I becoming “best friends” with the “**OWNER**” by the privilege and opportunity of managing His resources?

Epilogue: The amazing John Saville story continues.... Forever!

Discussion Questions:

1. When you were growing up, how would you describe your family's view toward money? Toward generosity?
2. Who is the most generous person you know? Who has blessed you by their generosity?
3. How would you describe where you are today on the journey toward generosity? How big of a priority is it for you and what are some barriers to being more generous?
4. Chip said, “Generosity works.” Brainstorm a list of ways that generosity makes for a richer, better life. How has this principle of “generosity works” played itself out in your life?
5. If we were to look at your life in the past, where have you been tempted to follow the world's thinking about money? Are you tempted to believe and behave as though money will bring security, significance, purpose, or happiness?