

When I was in school, we had a teacher who had one of the most hideous suits we had ever seen as kids. We used to laugh every time this teacher wore this suit because it was just so shiny and yet so outdated at the same time. One day this teacher was sharing during chapel (wearing this hideous suit). His story and actions would leave a lasting impression on my heart and how I express generosity. He shared that he realized it was time for a new suit. So, he finally gave in and went to the store and bought a new suit. Now we were all a little puzzled because he was still wearing this shiny outdated blue atrocity of a suit. He told us how excited he had been to finally have a new suit. He went right home after buying it and went to his closet and pulled out the old suit and thought he would take it to Goodwill or somewhere like that to donate it because it was still in excellent condition. Then he was reminded of the God he serves. His God always gives the best. He doesn't hold back. He gave His one and only son (John 3:16). His God is truly a generous God. As he was holding on to his new purchase and this ancient of days suit ... he was invited by the Holy Spirit to practice generosity and to give the best he had. Before he fully knew what he was doing, he showed up at Goodwill, and it was the new suit he donated.

This teacher gave the best. For me, this has always stuck with me and altered my understanding of generosity. It isn't just giving — it is giving the best we have, even if sometimes it could cause us pain in that offering — ultimately practicing this kind of radical generosity will lead us closer to Jesus, who gave all that He had, held nothing back; he gave us abundant life (John 10:10) through His sacrifice on the cross and if that wasn't enough He has given us the Holy Spirit 'without limit' (John 3:34). We are called to walk as Jesus did (1 John 2:6). We are invited to live a life of radical generosity and **hold nothing back**.

When Jesus taught about giving, he said, "**Do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing.**" I believe Jesus was speaking to our motives. Jesus did not want us to dwell on our own generosity — instead to always be looking for the next opportunity to give — to look to others' interests above our own ... to give and **not look back!** Radical generosity will mean sacrifice. Jesus sacrificed, and so did my teacher (not to mention us kids who had to keep looking at that suit 😊). But radical generosity will also always bring us into more Christ likeness as we remember all we have is His. When we are generous to others, we are generous to Jesus (Matthew 25:34-40).

Exercise it out:

How is the Holy Spirit inviting you to practice generosity today? SHHHHH Give but don't tell anyone! Start being generous today: Give the larger piece of cake to your friend. Instead of donating something old (this is good too), maybe donate a NEW thing. Start small but practice generosity TODAY! **Keep it on the down-low, my friends!**

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