

pray . fast . give .



Living Lent | Day 9

Generosity Creates Happiness

*“He who loves money shall never have enough.
The foolishness of thinking that wealth brings happiness!”*

Ecclesiastes 5:10 TLBMSG

Encouragement for the Lenten Journey:

What is your definition of “enough”? In Jeff Shinabarger’s book, *More or Less: Choosing a Lifestyle of Excessive Generosity*, the author challenges us to evaluate all the aspects of our lives and ponder one question: What would happen if we created a culture in which we gave away whatever was more than enough for us? Thinking about that: How would our habits change if we shed the excess from our lives? How could we share our excess to meet needs in our community?

With each chapter, Shinabarger offers a host of social experiments that lead the reader to see that many of us have so much more food, clothing, time, money, and access than we realize ... and really need ... in comparison to many who live in our community. He calls us to action to take personal stock and make small personal shifts that could be life-changing to those less fortunate in our own backyard.

How do YOU define enough?

Shinabarger says defining enough is a personal responsibility, realizing that no one can define it for you nor can you define it for anyone else. Enough isn’t a percentage of your income. It’s much bigger than that. You alone must decide – in all the areas of your life – what you need more of and where you could (or

should) choose less.

As you ponder your personal definition of enough realize the impact this could have in who you are, how others see you, and what legacy you will leave behind for humanity. As you do, remember there should be no guilt in having success, wealth, or material things. We are responsible to care for our own needs and those of our family, so as not to be a burden on others, and we are called to care for the needs of “the least of these.” We should feel grateful for our excess and bless others around us out of our abundance – creating a lifestyle of greater generosity.

Our verse today speaks directly to having wealth. Solomon, in the verses leading up to and following Ecclesiastes 5:10, observed that those who love money and seek it never find true happiness. He reminds us that God is the source of our happiness.

In Matthew 6, Jesus says, “Do not store up for yourself treasures on earth ... For where you store your treasure, there your heart will be.” The word “store up” can be translated “stockpile.” In assessing where our hearts are in relation to God and our excess can be a good reminder of how we find our happiness.

After leading a group of women in a Bible Study centered around More or Less, I took stock in my closet, my pantry ... my needs versus my wants. By making small changes in my personal habits, I was able to increase my financial giving to nonprofit organizations, like Morningstar Children’s Home.

The Children of Morningstar don’t have the benefit of excess. Their needs are great, and they rely on donations from you and me for little extras like ice cream trucks and sports equipment, and for basic needs like pajamas and school shoes. I am blessed that I can offer financial support and know that my donations are making a positive impact in their lives.

Challenge to Prayer and the Exercise of the Privilege of Generosity

As you pray and sacrifice throughout this Lenten Journey, will you take this opportunity to pay forward in generosity a gift of at least \$1 per day throughout the 40 days for the Children of Morningstar? It is a privilege and a blessing to give as we all look forward to Easter and the Resurrection.

[Donate Now](#)

Contributor

Jan W. Castillo is the owner and president of The Dotted Line Collaborative, a grants practice where she researches, drafts, and submits grant proposals for nonprofits, schools, and faith-based organizations. She lives in Lakeville,

Minnesota with her husband, Josue', and cat, Buddy. Jan enjoys hosting family dinners, playing with her grandchildren, gardening, and leading small groups. Jan and Josue are frequent donors to Morningstar through its Amazon Wish List. Last year, they found special joy in sponsoring a child at Christmas.

NOTE: You can find information on More or Less: Choosing a Lifestyle of Excessive Generosity at <http://moreorlessbook.com/>.

Download The Living Lent Calendar

Sign Up For Our Daily Devotionals



Discover Morningstar Children & Family Services

Learn More

a sanctuary where transformative teaching and healing affirms our children through real relationships

Primary Mailing Address
P.O. Box 370
Brunswick, GA 31521

Brunswick Counseling Center
220 Santo Domingo Drive
Brunswick, GA 31525

Perry Counseling Center
402 Courtney Hodges Blvd, Ste 201
Perry, GA 31069

Morningstar Residential Campus
1 Youth Estate Drive
Brunswick, GA 31525

morningstarcfs.org | [@morningstarcfs](https://www.facebook.com/morningstarcfs)  



Morning Star CFS | 1 Youth Estate Drive, Brunswick, GA 31525, Brunswick, GA 31525

[Unsubscribe |ljohnson@morningstarcfs.org](mailto:ljohnson@morningstarcfs.org)

[Update Profile](#) | [Customer Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by livinglent@morningstarcfs.org powered by



Try email marketing for free today!