

Introduction:

A familiar story that is often misunderstood and misapplied.

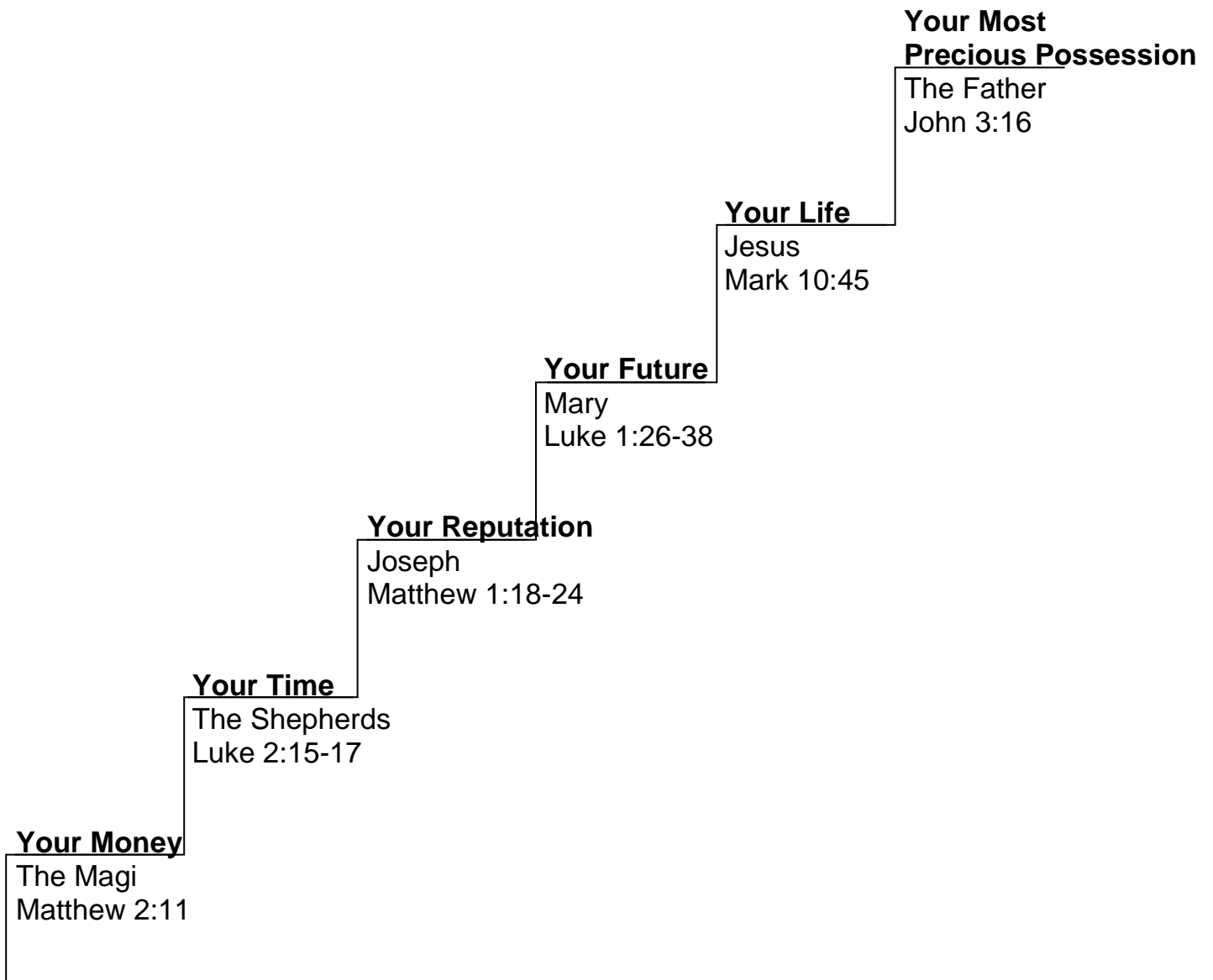
*¹As he looked up, Jesus saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury. ²He also saw a poor widow put in **two** very **small copper coins**. ³"I tell you the truth," he said, "this poor widow has **put in more** than all the others. ⁴All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on."*

Luke 21:1-4 (NIV)

Breakthrough Concept

God does not measure generosity by the size of our gift, but by the size of our sacrifice.

The Christmas Story: A graduate course in generosity



Three observations:

1. Generosity is not so much a virtuous act, as it is a virtuous _____.
2. God does not measure generosity by the size of our gift, but by the size of our _____.
3. Increasing levels of generosity bring increasing levels of _____.

Generosity is to love as thunder is to lightning:

“Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”

Luke 6:38 (NIV)

A special guest with a special story:

1. **Generosity always begins with God; it is the visible expression of His infinite, incomprehensible love for us.**

James 1:17

Question: Are you living with the constant awareness that you are the object of God's infinite and unconditional love?

Application: List 25 specific blessings from God before the end of the week and share them with a friend.

2. **Our generosity is the visible expression of our love (response to God's love) for God.**

John 14:21

Question: Where are you on your generosity journey with God? What "next step" do you sense God's Spirit prompting you to take?

Application: Ask God to show you a specific way to stretch your generosity muscle and where and what He directs you to give.

3. **Generous living begins with the "training wheels" of money and possessions and graduates to making our "very lives" a gift to God as a perpetual act of worship.**

Romans 12:1-2

Question: Why is it so critical to remember that God wants the very best for us as we grow in our generosity?

Application: Memorize Romans 12:1-2 this week.