

Generous Pt. 2

Two part teaching – 2 Cor. 8-9

Concerns:

- topic avoided because of bad examples
- sensitive subject – money and giving

Hear Clearly

- I don't want something from you
- I desire something for you

Discover Truth and Freedom

- 2350 times bible speaks about money and our view
- many warnings about it having unhealthy place in our lives
 - 1 Tim. 6:9-10 ***“Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.”***
 - Heb 13:5 ***“Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.”***

- Matt. 6:19-21 ***“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”***

Demonstrate growth as a disciple in this area

- find gateways to participate in generosity
- stop withholding what is God's to ask for

- Malachi 3: ***“In tithes and offerings. You are under a curse—your whole nation—because you are robbing me. Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the LORD Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.”***

Duplicate God's Heart

- view resources as His to grant

- James 1:17 ***“Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.”***

- clearly respond to what we have experienced from God

- Acts 20:35 ***“In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’ ”***

- Matt. 10:8 ***“Freely you have received; freely give.”***

2 Cor 9:1-5 “There is no need for me to write to you about this service to the Lord’s people. For I know your eagerness to help, and I have been boasting about it to the Macedonians, telling them that since last year you in Achaia were ready to give; and your enthusiasm has stirred most of them to action. But I am sending the brothers in order that our boasting about you in this matter should not prove hollow, but that you may be ready, as I said you would be. For if any Macedonians come with me and find you unprepared, we—not to say anything about you—would be ashamed of having been so confident. So I thought it necessary to urge the brothers to visit you in advance and finish the arrangements for the generous gift you had promised. Then it will be ready as a generous gift, not as one grudgingly given.”

1. Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is

- already expressed commitment to participate
- your enthusiasm stirred them to action
- sending brothers to finalize preparation

a) Example and Follow through Important

- Phil 3:17 – ***“Join together in following my example, brothers and sisters, and just as you have us as a model, keep your eyes on those who live as we do.”***

- we are models to others of generosity and obedience, and it is important to follow through

- when we give our support – important not to abandon what we are committed to

b) Timelines matter

- told to store up the gift, to be systematic, prepared, ready to receive those collecting it
- when it is prayed about, set aside, planned for, decided in the heart – ready to give with generous heart
- ‘ready as a generous gift not one given grudgingly

2. Kingdom Principle

- 9:6-11 ***“Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work***

As it is written: “They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever.” Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.”

- kingdom of God counter cultural

- to become great you serve
- to save your life you give it away
- poor in spirit inherit the Kingdom
- forgiveness is the path to freedom
- generosity is the road to blessing

a) Sowing and Reaping are Related vs.6

- planting and harvest never happen on same day
- key perspective – how you seed will determine harvest
- not a promise of health and wealth – but of trusting that God sees and is faithful in rewarding

b) Intentional and Prepared for vs. 7

- decided in heart – prayed about and decided
- according to your situation – aware of what God has entrusted you to manage
- set aside for a purpose – can be offered gladly

c) Ownership and Management – trust issues

- God is able to provide for you abundantly

- Phil. 4:19 ***“And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.”***

- Rom 8:32 ***“He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?”***

- Everything belongs to God – the earth and all in it

- God entrusts to you – asks for your participation

- in all situations, at all times, God is able to provide what you need – so you can abound in every good work

- why are you enriched in every way – to participate

3. Amazing Impact 12-15

“This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord’s people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!”

- impact of needs being met
- impact of God being praised and thanked

- impact of your witness of obedience and trust
- brotherly love abounds between God's children
- God is reflected and glorified

So What

1. How are you at faithful follow through

- clear some reminders are in order – Paul's example
- our example is important, there are times of participation above and beyond

2. Have you embraced the Kingdom Principle

- are you sowing generously? How can you begin to change that?
- are you intentional and prepared in this area of life? Do you suspect that affects your joy or cheerful heart?
- God owns, we manage – are you open to being a better manager, ready to be entrusted with bigger amounts to invest in kingdom work?

3. What is the Legacy and Impact?

- of Grand Centre as a group
- of you and your home?
- are you ready to participate more?