

LOVE
&
AUTHORITY
2 CORINTHIANS



Sermon Series Notes

"The Grace of Giving" (II Corinthians 8)

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I. THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE OFFERINGS (vv.21-22).

* Always more than one person handling the money (and not related to one another); accountability before God and man.

II. ENCOURAGED TO BE AN EXAMPLE IN GIVING

* Churches that were giving churches became an example to others the Macedonian churches became an example in giving, and Paul concludes this chapter with an encouragement to the Corinthian church to become an example as well.

* Note: You have become an example to other churches People are amazed that we do not take an offering here at Calvary Chapel!

III. THE EXAMPLE GOD IS LOOKING FOR

A. Motivated In Giving By Grace (v.1)

* Acts 4:33 and much grace was upon them all.

* Law is a terrible motivation to give. When grace is upon a person's life, they don't give because they have to, but rather because they "get to."

* v.9 See Redpath, pp.383, 385; "Who can measure the gap between the throne and the cross?...poverty is always worse when you have known better days. If you want to know extremes of poverty, visit India and the cities of Calcutta & Madras & Bombay and you would see the poor outcasts in their thousands all suffering But they have been like that since their birth; they have lived with it, and are used to it But one day Jesus was rich and He became poor

B. Gave Without Being Asked (vv.3b-4)

* Paul, in seeing how poor these people were, evidently was not going to ask them to give. But because of the grace of God working in these believer's lives, they "urgently pleaded" with Paul to let them give!

C. Gave Themselves First To The Lord (v.5a)

- If God has us, he has our money!; Rich young ruler/Zaccheus
- This is the key in giving!

D. Gave Themselves To The Leadership Of The Church (v.5b)

- in keeping with God's will (Heb.13:17)
- Acts 4: 34 There were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned lands or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales 35 and **put it at the apostles' feet**, and it was distributed to anyone as he had need.
- Acts 5: 2 With his wife's full knowledge he kept back part of the money for himself, but brought the rest and **put it at the apostles' feet**.
- See Acts 11: 25-30 (note v.30)
- See notes on I Cor.16a
- NOTE: Watch out for total independence in giving. God has ordained a system through which we may give in a corporate way, as well as the freedom to give as a Good Samaritan.

E. Urged To Give Completely (vv.6, 10-15)

- Continue in your giving
- Last year's desire to give may be challenged by this year's deficit!
- Just because you can't give as much now, don't stop giving!
- It also means that we should not hoard; last year's desire may be challenged by this year's surplus. Having more is sometimes more of a temptation not to give than having less!
- See Ex.16: 16-19; They sought to hoard it for themselves; it was a selfish, greedy, faithless maneuver!

F. Gave Beyond Their Ability (vv.2-3)

- The Bible (OT & NT) talks about two types of giving: "tithes & offerings." Tithe simply means 10%. The tithe is seen in Scripture long before the giving of The Law through Moses. Jacob told God that he would give God a tithe of everything God gave to him (Gen.28:20-22). But years before this, Abraham gave a tithe to Melchizedek (Gen.14:18-20). Hebrews 7 refers to Melchizedek as at the very least a "type" of Christ, and refers to Abraham giving Him a tenth (Heb.7:1-10). So the tithe spans not only the Old and New Testaments, but eternity as well!
- There have been times in my life where just giving the tithe was giving beyond my ability. These days I give a tithe, and I have plenty left over to live on. So tithing for me doesn't take a great deal of faith. But for some of us, just a tithe would take a lot of faith, because we already can't make ends meet in our budget (I hope you have a budget).
- Beyond the tithe the Bible refers to offerings of all kinds as "freewill offerings." God said to the Israelites through the prophet Malachi that they had robbed him of "tithes and offerings." They had failed to give the basic tithe that represented the whole, and they had failed to follow the leading of the Spirit in offering God freewill offerings. I am a firm believer that if we are faithful with honoring God with a tithe of all our income, he will in time give us enough to be able to give freewill offerings as well.
- If we only give when we are able, where is faith?
- See I Kings 17: 9-16

- Mark 12: 41 Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts.

42 But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a fraction of a penny. 43 Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. 44 They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything--all she had to live on."

CONCLUSION

* Matt.13: 22 The one who received the seed that fell among the thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke it, making it unfruitful.

* Eccl.5: 10 Whoever loves money never has money enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with his income. This too is meaningless.

* I Tim.6: 6 But godliness with contentment is great gain.

7 For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it.

8 But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that 10 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 17 Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. 18 Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. 19 In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

* Matt.6: 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.

* Luke 16: 10 "Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. 11 So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches?

* I Chron.29: 3 Besides, in my devotion to the temple of my God I now give my personal treasures of gold and silver for the temple of my God, over and above everything I have provided for this holy temple 6 Then the leaders of families, the officers of the tribes of Israel, the commanders of thousands and commanders of hundreds, and the officials in charge of the king's work gave willingly 9 The people rejoiced at the willing response of their leaders, for they had given freely and wholeheartedly to the LORD. David the king also rejoiced greatly 11 Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, O LORD, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all. 12 Wealth and honor come from you; you are the ruler of all things. In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all.

13 Now, our God, we give you thanks, and praise your glorious name.

14 "But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand.

* The fable of "Stone Soup"

- It is thought to have originated centuries ago near the village of Almeirim, though versions of the story have been told for many years in villages all across Europe. It goes something like this: Three soldiers were passed through Almeirim on their way from fighting in a war. The soldiers asked for some food, but the villagers said that the war had left them poor & hungry as well. They told the soldiers they had nothing to give them. Then the soldiers asked if they had a large cauldron, some water, and three large stones. The baffled villagers said they did, but then asked what in the world they wanted with these items. The soldiers said they were going to make "stone soup." So the people rounded up the cauldron and gathered three large stones. The soldiers then built a fire in the town square, set the pot over the fire, filled the pot with water from the town well, then tossed in the stones. Soon the water came to a boil, and the soldiers began to sing. The villagers looked on in amazement. Then one soldier said, "Ah, stone soup, have you ever smelled anything so good?" "Oh, it smells delicious," replied the second soldier. The third said, "It could use a little salt. Too bad there's no salt in this village." One of the villagers blurted out, "I have some salt." And they rushed home to fetch it. The soldiers continued to sniff the boiling water. Then one of them said, "If only we had a carrot or two. Stone soup with carrots can't be beat!" "And potatoes," said another. "Stone soup with potatoes sure would be nice." "And cabbage," said the third. "Cabbage would make it perfect." Different villagers began to take off & return with a few carrots, potatoes, a head of cabbage. And this continued, with the soldiers adding one more ingredient at a time to their list - a soup bone, a few onions, some peas & beans, a bit of garlic - and the villagers always managed to scrounge up exactly what was needed. Finally, the soup was done - and there was enough hearty, thick soup in the cauldron for the soldiers, as well as all the villagers & their children. Just a couple of hours before, the villagers had nothing to spare. Now they were all having a feast! And it happened because everybody contributed. Everybody put something in the pot.

* He is no fool to give what he cannot keep in order to gain what he cannot lose.

* The Sea of Galilee verses The Dead Sea. Both fed by the same source (The Jordan), but one is dead and the other full of life. For every drop of water that goes into The Sea of Galilee, another drop goes out. Bu The Dead Sea hoards every drop