

Jan. 12: Sermon Notes for Churched: We are Generous (2 Corinthians 9:5-12 and other related Scriptures)

- Life revolves around our material existence as we spend most of our waking life interacting with the material side of life (how to get it, spend it, invest it, borrow it, save it, use it, save it, etc.)
- God addresses our relationship with the material and financial 2350 times and Jesus spoke more about our relationship to things than any other subject. WHY?
 1. It's a **test** of one's faithfulness (Lk 16:11), preoccupation (Matt. 6:21) and loyalty (Matt 6:24)
 2. It's a **tool** for ministry support (ex: Phil. 4:10-19)
- There are **two** truths that grow our understanding and participation in being the generous people God desires:

God is a generous God

- Whether John 3:16 ("God so loved the world that He gave") or James 1:5 ("He gives to all men generously"), God is a great giver and this is amplified by three realities:
 - God is the source of everything (He owns it all): He's the "possessor of heaven and earth" (Gen. 14:19,22). He claims it's all "Mine" (Ex. 19:5; Lev. 25:23; Num. 3:12; Ps. 50:10; Hag. 2:8; Ps. 40:12; Ezek. 18:4; Job 41:11)
 - God is the sovereign over everything (He controls it all and doesn't share ownership): Ps. 115:3; Dan. 4:35; Ps. 103:19; Lk 14:33
 - God is the supplier of everything (He provides it all): 1 Cor. 4:7; 1 Tim. 6:7, 17; Deut. 8:18.
- Notice how God shows up in the instruction about receiving an offering for needy saints in Jerusalem in 2 Cor. 8-9 ("the grace of God" is a phrase used to speak of financial grace 10x (8:1, 4, 6-7, 9, 16, 19; 9:8, 14-15); 8:1, 9, 19; 9:7-8, 10, 15)
 - He gives to everyone life, common grace, internal awareness of God, His Word, etc.
 - He gives to believers all-sufficient resources (grace, salvation, His Word, prayer, forgiveness, Holy Spirit, etc.)

1. God makes generous givers

- This generosity is built into our saving grace in three ways:
 1. It's modeled for us by God as seen above
 2. It's mandated for us by God (Lk 6:38)
 3. It's motivated in us by God who makes us stewards of everything and God expects a return on His investment (Matt. 25:14-20)

- God teaches us to do four things with our earthly wealth:
 1. Secure it honestly (by work-Eph. 4:28, inheritance, investment, gifting)
 2. Spend it wisely (operate on a plan; live within your means, pay your bills, etc.)
 3. Save it carefully (Prov. 6:6-8; 21:20)
 4. Share it generously, so how has God instructed us to do this?
- Follow God's **G.E.N.E.R.O.S.I.T.Y.** guidelines

God-driven generosity (2 Cor. 8:1,5; Prov. 3:9-10; Mal. 1:6-14): Generosity is “grace” driven and is supposed to be a priority in our lives

Enjoyable generosity (2 Cor. 8:2; 9:7b): Giving is a joy motivated by God.

Need-oriented generosity (2 Cor. 8:4): God directs our giving toward gospel ministry (Lk. 16:9; Phil. 4:15-16), leadership support (1 Cor. 9:11, 14; 1 Tim. 5:17-18; Gal. 6:6) and the deprived (Gal. 2:10; 6:10; 1 Tim. 5:3-15)

Excessive generosity (2 Cor. 8:2-3, 7; 9:5-6, 8, 10; 1 Tim. 6:18; Lk 19:8-9; Mk 12:41-44). Lavish grace motives giving that is “bountiful” or “generous”

Regular generosity (1 Cor. 16:2)

Overwhelmed generosity (2 Cor. 9:11-13): God's lavish generosity to you motivates an overwhelming sense of gratitude

Unilateral generosity (2 Cor. 9:7a): Your giving is determined by you. It's an intentional, predetermined action.

Situational generosity (2 Cor. 8:12): Your giving is proportionate to what God has given you. It's not equal giving, but equal generosity. Tithing (10% of your income) is misunderstood and there is no New Testament command for this percentage. God has two types of giving:

- Required giving (a form of taxation): The OT had 3 tithes: Levite-Lev. 27:30-33; Festival-Deut. 14:22-27; Poor tithe every third year-Deut. 14:28-29; plus a welfare plan-Lev. 19:9-10 and temple tax-Neh. 10:32-33 which equaled about 25%. The NT commands us to pay our taxes (Rom. 13:1-7)
- Responsive giving (voluntary) in OT (Ex. 35:5, 22; Deut. 15:10; 16:16b-17; 2 Sam. 24:24; Prov. 11:24-25) and NT is highlighted above.

God's lavish grace motivates generous giving or something's wrong.