

“BEGGING JUST TO GIVE”

I. 2 Corinthians 8:1-9

A. Our text today is about an offering Paul was collecting on behalf of suffering members of the church in Jerusalem... Pledges had been made a year earlier...

- 1) The church in Jerusalem was suffering and in great need...
- 2) Paul is on his third missionary journey which had a two-fold purpose: Strengthen the young churches and collect on behalf of those hurting in Jerusalem...
- 3) 2 Cor. 8 & 9 are perhaps the best two chapters in the NT with respect to giving... They describe giving as a Grace, something God inspires and enables...

B. What can we glean from 2 Cor. 8:1-9 with respect to giving?

- 1) Paul challenges Corinth to give like the churches in Macedonia who: *"In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity."* (Guatemala 1999; Extreme poverty but great joy...)
- 2) They begged Paul to let them give: *"For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability."* (They weren't cajoled or guilted into giving--they really wanted to...) C.S. Lewis quote...
- 3) Excel in Giving: *"But since you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you—see that you also excel in this grace of giving. I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others."* (John Piper -Mississippi is the poorest state in the USA and the most generous state in the USA...)
- 4) The Gospel: *"For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich."*

C. "A Baker's Dozen Things On Giving."

- 1) Giving declares: God is my Source... (Do you really believe this?)
- 2) Giving implies: Everything I have belongs to Him... (Owners vs Stewards)
- 3) Giving is an act of grace... (Something our Lord enables...)
- 4) Giving is an act of service... (Jesus said He came to serve...)
- 5) Giving is an act of worship...
- 6) Giving naturally flows from the Gospel and emulates the Gospel... *(Someone who struggles with giving probably doesn't grasp the supreme giving that is inherent in the Gospel... The greater our understanding of the Gospel in terms of giving, the easier it is to give... Cheerfulness in giving comes from the joy of our salvation!)*
- 7) Giving is a privilege... (Not a 'have to do' thing but a 'get to do' thing...)
- 8) Giving is a matter of the heart... (It never pays to prod someone to do something that really isn't in their heart to do. Augustine Quote...)
- 9) Neither reluctant giving or forced giving are God's ways of giving...
- 10) Joyful, willing, un-pressured, cheerful giving is God's way of giving.
- 11) Giving has immediate tangible benefits plus eternal ramifications... 12) Even the smallest gift given in humility represents generosity... (Copper coins, 5 loaves and 2 fish, a little flour & oil, stick of gum and a penny...)
- 13) Jesus said, *"It is more blessed to give than receive."* (Acts 20:35) (So was He telling the truth or trying to pull a fast one over on us?!)

D. Who has impacted you most in life- stingy people or generous people?

- 1) Quotes by Hudson Taylor, George Mueller, & J.D. Rockefeller...
- 2) Trust me when I tell you, giving is Godly, Biblical, good and safe...
- 3) Close with 2 Corinthians 9:6-8 and Prayer...

Scriptures, Videos, & Bonus Stuff

2 Corinthians 8:1-9 (NIV)

1 And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. 2 In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. 3 For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, 4 they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord's people. 5 And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us. 6 So we urged Titus, just as he had earlier made a beginning, to bring also to completion this act of grace on your part. 7 But since you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you—see

that you also excel in this grace of giving. **8** I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others. **9** For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.

Quote by Augustine

"Where your pleasure is, there is your treasure; where your treasure is, there is your heart; where your heart is, there is your happiness."

Quote by Hudson Taylor (Missionary to China)

"When God's work is done in God's way for God's glory, it will never lack God's supply."

Quote by George Mueller (English orphanages)

"God judges what we give by what we keep."

Quote by J.D. Rockefeller

"I never would have been able to tithe the first million dollars I ever made if I had not tithed my first salary, which was \$1.50 per week."

2 Corinthians 9:6-8 (NIV)

6 Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. **7** Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. **8** And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

Some Excellent Video Clips

Must Christians Attend Church? - Hank Hanegraaff / The One Minute Apologist

<http://www.equip.org/video/one-minute-apologist-228-must-christians-attend-church/?msource=EC130525WKLY>

Poor People Are More Generous--John Piper

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tzf12TdFIaQ>

What Does The Bible Say About Giving Money? John Piper

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3ID7gfR6FY4>

Giving--Message Excerpt--Francis Chan

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GVXftLh90FI>

Cheerful Giving--Mark Driscoll

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pjvuwkf8TU>

A Cheerful Giver's Dance

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LAiiKjelFa0>

A Groundhog Preaches on Giving

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pj5GVhLvK7Q&feature=related>

Bonus Stuff

Quote by Mother Teresa

"If you give what you do not need, it isn't giving."

Quote by Albert M. Wells

"Sharing what you have is more important than what you have."

Quote by Martin Luther

"I have tried to keep things in my hands and lost them all, but what I have given into God's hands I still possess."

Quote by J. D. Douglas (Biblical scholar)

"Where our bread is concerned, it is a material matter. Where our neighbor's bread is concerned, it is a spiritual matter."

* "The trouble is that too many people are spending money they haven't yet earned for things they don't need to impress people they don't like." - Unknown

* Captain Levy, a believer from Philadelphia, was once asked how he could give so much to the Lord's work and still possess great wealth. The Captain replied, "Oh, as I shovel it out, He shovels it in, and the Lord has a bigger shovel."

- Today in the Word, July, 1990, p. 28.

August H. Francke

In the latter part of the 17th century, German preacher August H. Francke founded an orphanage to care for the homeless children of Halle. One day when Francke desperately needed funds to carry on his work, a destitute Christian widow came to his door begging for a ducat--a gold coin. Because of his financial situation, he politely but regretfully told her he couldn't help her. Disheartened, the woman began to weep. Moved by her tears, Francke asked her to wait while he went to his room to pray. After seeking God's guidance, he felt that the Holy Spirit wanted him to change his mind. So, trusting the Lord to meet his own needs, he gave her the money. Two mornings later, he received a letter of thanks from the widow. She explained that because of his generosity she had asked the Lord to shower the orphanage with gifts. That same day Francke received 12 ducats from a wealthy lady and 2 more from a friend in Sweden. He thought he had been amply rewarded for helping the widow, but he was soon informed that the orphanage was to receive 500 gold pieces from the estate of Prince Lodewyk Van Wurtenburg. When he heard this, Francke wept in gratitude. In sacrificially providing for that needy widow, he had been enriched, not impoverished. (Author Unknown)