



**Small Group Sermon Reflections**  
***The Generosity Factor: Let's Excel***  
**21 February 2021**

**Opening Prayer & Check-in**

**Sunday Morning**

**Scripture Text: 2 Corinthians 8:1-7**

**Sermon Preamble:** Our message this Sunday morning, we are talking about our treasures. Those of you seasoned enough to remember, there was a marketing campaign for a pair of sneakers that promised to make you run faster and jump higher. Long before Air Jordan's P.F. Flyers were the shoes that many of us begged our parents for. These and similar promises made by marketers are counterfeit. Nevertheless, we all want to do better, be better, and to excel in that which we do; in fact, our visions are unlimited. Having a vision of what it is that we want to accomplish is a good thing. However, the vision we are talking about here is not about fame or fortune, but about catching a glimpse of what God wants to do in this world. We are talking about God-sized visions, God-sized dreams in the area of excelling in the gracious act of giving.

Looking at **2 Corinthians 8:1-7**, Paul is not pitting the two churches against each other. Nor is he trying to guilt them; for guilt is a poor motivator in that actions taken out of guilt lack staying power. Instead, the Apostle is stoking a vision for them to excel in the gracious act of giving. Paul's commitment to take up this collection for the poor in Jerusalem was an effort which extended many years. Adding to that, if you read 1 Cor 16:2, you will see that it introduces the model of giving as an act of worship

**Biblical Giving Is:**

- An Act of Worship
- A Spiritual Service
- A Ministry of Love

We see in Romans 15:30-31, Paul was so committed to collecting these offerings for the poor, that he was willing to risk his life in order to do so.

- The church at Corinth was the first to give
- Paul encouraged them to finish what they'd started; this was not a demand but instead, a heart test

This is not unlike us today, while many of us give with good intentions, the world with its problems tempts us away. Not to mention that the everyday life experiences which happen and takes away our fiscal focus. You see, every financial decision is a spiritual decision.

**Macedonian Generosity**

- Gave despite hard circumstances; persecution and poverty
- Gave out of overflowing, abundant joy (of which they were rich in)
- Gave sacrificially
- Gave of their own free will
- Regarded giving is a privilege

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**2 Corinthians 8:5**

- They gave of themselves first and everything else flowed from this
- They caught God's vision for the poor
- Their inside out giving came from a fire in their bones
- A warm glow of satisfaction ([a real thing](#)) was a byproduct of the generosity of God towards them

**2 Corinthians 8:19**

- Jesus made and is the ultimate sacrifice thus, we can emulate His generosity
- Like us, the Corinthians were not materially rich but instead, rich in the blessings of God
- We should not be lacking in zeal when it comes to being generous nor take for granted the Source of our being able to give, He is worthy of our praise

**Worthy of Worship**

- We need to fill our praise meters to overflow
- Individually, we want to excel in response to God's generosity towards us
- Collectively, we as a church must excel to be more and to do more in terms of God's generosity
- It is never about us, it is about what God is doing and what we are doing to make His name great

**The Generosity Two-Step**

- Step I, Reflect on God's Goodness in Gratitude
  - [The Tim Ambrose Gratitude Stack](#)
  - A Gratitude [First 50](#)
  - Our God is generous; He's just that good
- Step II
  - Become a First-Time giver; to the church or an agency aligned to God's calling on your life; see [Luke 6:38](#)
  - Become a Constant Giver, try this for a few months and share how God responds
  - Become a Tither; 10 percent is the goal but, start where you are and proceed with intention so you progress to that point; for our giving does not go unnoticed by God
  - Become an Extravagant Giver; allow generosity to flow as this makes for crazy joy

**One more thing...**

If we each do our part individually imagine how the collective church (SBCC) becomes an even greater tool in the hands of God

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*The intent of our Small Groups is that we Connect with God and Grow Together so that we might Change the World. It is with that in mind that the scripture passages are hyperlinked along with the opening song and other things. We encourage you to take the time to click on them, especially the scripture passages and read them aloud for maximum effect.*

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

**ADULTS**

● **Head**

- Last week we were encouraged to perform a time audit, this week, how about a heart audit... What treasures is your heart tied to when it comes to money?
- Is your money saying for you what you believe it is?
- Are you keeping your use of material goods and services under the constraint of the cross?
- If you are not satisfied in response to your contribution to the kingdom to any or all of these questions, what actions are you going to take to address them? How can this group help you accomplish them?
- Looking at your life currently, what living example of generosity can you point to as a model?
- Do you consider yourself as a blessing to others in the area of giving? Why or why not? Do you see SBCC as being a blessing to others in this capacity? Why or why not?

● **Heart**

- Honestly, in the two-step continuum where do you see yourself? Where do you see yourself in a month, a year, five (5) years from now?
- What would it mean for you to live sacrificially in becoming a vessel of generosity? What comfort will you need to eliminate in order to give where moth and rust do not destroy?
- What legacy would you like to leave in the area of generosity? What do you sense God calling you to do in this area of your life? Can you honestly say that you have caught His vision when it comes to being generous?
- It is said that *"We cannot outgive God"*, do you believe that? If so, would your calendar, checkbook and your heart align to this proclamation? If not, what steps are you going to take to make them congruent?

● **Hands**

- This week, audit/identify/write down what you've spent on non-essential items during the month of February. Whatever 10 percent of that number is, take it and either add it to your offering next week and earmark it for Missions Ministry or, give it to a local shelter in your area that is making a difference in the lives of the people where you live. Either way, let's be generous and in doing so, make God more famous.

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**YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT**

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**CHILDREN**

- **Head**

- Ask your parents to read [2 Corinthians 8:1-7](#) to you and recap the sermon to help you understand the why behind the need to be generous towards God.

- **Heart**

- Once your parents explain it, ask them to pray with and for you and to help you embrace what it means to apply it to your life as you make a difference because you are alive!

- **Hands**

- This week, ask God to open the eyes of your heart so that you can see just how our Great God wants you to be generous towards him.