

Take it Home

Applying the Preached Word



**The Grace of
Giving:
Contagious
Giving**

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Text- 2 Corinthians 8:1-7

Main Point:

Generosity is contagious. It spreads like wildfire among the redeemed. Paul uses the testimony of the Macedonian churches to spread the desire to give generously.

Key Ideas:

Contagious Generosity:

1. Giving is a Godward act of worship
 - “They gave themselves first to the Lord...then to us.” (v.5)
 - The financial implications of faith flow out of the total consecration of our lives to Christ.
 - Jesus repeatedly taught that the way two relate to money reveals the true master of our lives.
2. Giving is a display of God’s grace
 - Giving is referred to as an act of grace. It comes out of transforming work of Christ in us. We give because He first gave to us.
 - The Macedonian Christians demonstrated this grace by giving out of their extreme poverty. Paul cites their example to show that no one is exempted from this calling.
3. Giving is an exciting privilege
 - The Macedonian Christians begged earnestly for the favor of participating in the offering.
 - The Macedonian Christians had an abundance of joy even in the midst of their extreme poverty (v.2). Having more is not the path to joy.

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- The Macedonian Christians were overjoyed to give beyond what was expected, beyond what anyone would have thought their means would make possible (vv.3-5)

Fellowship Starters

Treasure: *Application to stir our love for Christ*

1. How's your giving related to your relationship with Christ? In what way is it an act of worship?
2. Jared pointed out that "having more is not the path to joy." Are you vulnerable to the cultural lie that we achieve happiness by acquiring things? Has this affected your ability to worship God through generous giving? If so, how might the Lord be calling you to battle against that lie?

Grow: *Application to stir our obedience to Christ*

3. Could you be described, as the Macedonian Christians were, as one who begs earnestly for the favor giving? How does their example encourage or inspire you in your own practice of generosity?
4. Have you ever considered yourself exempted from giving, or stopped short of giving as much as the Holy Spirit was leading you, due to financial hardship? If so, how does the example of Macedonians speak to you? What are some steps you can take to follow their example?

Proclaim: *Application to stir our witness for Christ*

5. Though the Bible teaches that we shouldn't give in order to be seen by men, what are some ways that a generous lifestyle can strengthen our witness in the midst of a world that pursues material things as a source of happiness and fulfillment?