

Radical Generosity

2 Corinthians 8:1-9

- Radical generosity is borne of God's GRACE.
8:1
- Radical generosity is SACRIFICIAL.
8:2-4
- Radical generosity is GOD-CENTERED.
8:5
- Radical generosity is INTENTIONAL.
8:6-7
- Radical generosity shows what we LOVE.
8:8
- Radical generosity was GIVEN to us by JESUS.
8:9

FURTHER UP, FURTHER IN

1. Read 1 Timothy 6:9-11. Why is materialism or the love of money such a deadly sin? How does it hurt our spiritual lives? How does it blind us to God? Is it really a danger? Where does this show up in your life? (see also Gen 3:6, Matt 4:8-10, 1 John 2:16, Mark 4:19, 2 Tim 4:10)
2. Read the story of Zacchaeus in Luke 19:1-10. Contrast this with the story in Luke 18:18-23. What is the difference between these two men? Why did they react differently? How does this help explain 2 Corinthians 8:1?
3. Read Malachi 1:6-14. What sinful attitudes about giving do you see throughout this passage? What is God's response (see also Mal 2:1-3)? How is this different from David's response in 2 Samuel 24:24 and the Macedonians response in 2 Cor 8:1-4?
4. Thinking about the three tithes in the Old Testament, what can we take away from the Old Testament about generosity (**Levites Tithe**: Lev 27:30-33, Num 14:22-29; **Festival Tithe**: Deu 12:5-19, 14:22-27; **Benevolence Tithe**: Deu 14:28-29)? How is this different from or similar to what we find in the New Testament (see 2 Cor 9:7)?
5. Read the following passages and discuss what it tells us about generous giving: Prov 3:9-10; Matt 6:19-21; Matt 6:24; Heb 13:5; 1 Tim 5:17-18; 1 Cor 9:11; 1 John 3:17; Luke 16:9; Rom 10:14-15; Heb 11:26.
6. What are some practical ways that you can be intentional about cultivating a generous heart? In your life, how can you be generous with your finances? With your time? With your home? With your possessions? Where has God been calling you to be more generous?
7. Read 2 Corinthians 8:9. What are some ways that Christ became poor? What did He give up? How has Jesus made us rich? How can this give you confidence of Jesus' provision for you (see 2 Cor 9:8; Phil 4:19; Luk 18:29-30; Rom 8:32; Luk 12:24)?

