

Message Notes | The Generous Life

Part 1: The Inspiration

2 Corinthians 8:1-9

- you value generosity
- it's not always easy to be generous - **Romans 7:19**

#1 The _____ life is the _____ life.

- the Macedonians give an example of generosity - **vs. 1-4**

#2 The generous life is a type of _____ that's marked by _____ acts of _____.

- an example from Jesus - **Mark 12:41-44**
- generosity is an indicator of something deeper - **vs. 5, 7**
Matthew 25:34-40

#3 There is a connection between our life of _____ and our life of _____.

- where does this type of generosity come from? - **vs. 1, 6, 7,**
John 3:16

#4 God loves a _____ because he is a _____.

- a challenge to consider

Group Questions | The Generous Life

Part 1: The Inspiration

2 Corinthians 8:1-9

1. When you think of someone you know who's generous, who do you think about and why?
2. Do you consider yourself to be generous? Why or why not?
3. What are some reasons that people hesitate to be generous even though we have more than we need? Why do you think so few people are truly generous?
4. **Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-7.** The generosity of the Macedonian Christians was truly remarkable. Which part of their generosity stands out to you most? Why?
5. When you think about being generous, does it stir any negative emotions? Explain.

What would it take for you to overcome those emotions?
6. When you think about the generosity of God — both in everyday gifts and in giving His Son — which specific gift most humbles or moves you, and why?
7. There is a connection between our life of generosity and our life of faith. How so?
8. The world is filled with people who are angry and frustrated. What difference can loving generosity make?

What's one specific way that you can be more generous?

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Part 1: The Inspiration

2 Corinthians 8:1-9

- you value generosity
- it's not always easy to be generous - **Romans 7:19**

#1 The generous life is the good life.

- the Macedonians give an example of generosity - **vs. 1-4**

#2 The generous life is a type of living that's marked by sacrificial acts of giving.

- an example from Jesus - **Mark 12:41-44**
- generosity is an indicator of something deeper - **vs. 5, 7**
Matthew 25:34-40

#3 There is a connection between our life of generosity and our life of faith.

- where does this type of generosity come from? - **vs. 1, 6, 7,**
John 3:16

#4 God loves a generous giver because he is a generous giver.

- a challenge to consider

Bible Reading for Today

2 Corinthians 8:1-9

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.