

April 28, 2013 Sermon Application Handout

“Motivated to Generosity”

2 Corinthians 8:1-5

1. Before you begin, take a moment to pray and ask God to help you not only know the things you will read in His Word but to keep the commandments in His Word (Lk 11:28; Jn 13:17)!

2. Read 2 Corinthians 8-9 in one sitting.
 - a. Who is Paul addressing?

 - b. What do these chapters say about God?

 - c. Is there a command to obey?

 - d. What is a specific teaching that can be understood from these chapters?

 - e. What is one thing from this chapter for which you can thank God?

 - f. From these chapters what is one thing you should ask God to help you do?

3. According to 2 Corinthians 8:1-5, what church was so anxious to give for the relief of the saints?

4. Read Acts 16:6-40. What are some things you learn about this particular group of people and what God did for and through them?

5. Despite the affliction and extreme poverty that this church faced, how did these people give to the saints who needed help? (See vv 2-4; Phil 4:10-15; Rom 15:26)

6. According to verse 4, this church gave sacrificially and voluntarily. What Paul is trying to convey to the church in Corinth and every believer is that these people had a strong passion to care for their fellow brother or sister in Christ. So much so that they beg Paul earnestly to take part in giving to relief effort. How about you? Would you say you sacrificially give of your money, possessions, and time beyond your means? Do you have an eagerness to give in this way? If not, why not? What's hindering you from giving generously?

7. Why was this church so motivated to give sacrificially, voluntarily, and eagerly? What drove their passion to be generous with those in need? (See Acts 16:9-10; Ephesians 2:5,8; Titus 3:4-5)

8. Read 2 Corinthians 8:9-10. Who demonstrated the most amazing sacrificial act of all time? In light of this, why is it possible to be generous in this lifetime?

9. Read Philippians 2:5-8. How did Jesus become poor for the believer's sake? What did He willingly leave aside? What did he willingly bear for your sake? Why is your sin so costly?

14. If you find after doing this study that you struggle with a heart attitude of selfishness, take time this week to read one chapter per day in the book of Philippians. Then:
 - a. Each day as you read your chapter in Philippians, look for what that chapter teaches about Paul's view of self and serving Christ and others.
 - b. Write out how you will apply what you have learned from each chapter each day.
 - c. Seek to memorize Philippians 2:3-11 and pray it back to God for yourself at least 3 times each day.

Resources:

- *Agape Leadership* by Robert Peterson and Alexander Strauch (short biography of R.C. Chapman)
- *Money, Possessions, and Eternity* by Randy Alcorn
- William Gouge on Covetousness
(<http://www.puritansermons.com/gouge/covindx.htm>)
- "The Ten Commandments" by Thomas Watson
(http://www.gracegems.org/Watson/ten_commandments12.htm)

"Earn all you can, give all you can, save all you can" (John Wesley)