

Unpacking the Preach

Date: 18th April 2021
Sermon Title: Discipleship & Giving
Bible Passage: 2 Corinthians 8 - 9

Recapping the Preach

On Sunday Stu read from 2 Corinthians 8:1-9, however take time to read the section in full (2 Corinthians 8 - 9). In its entirety the passage breaks down into the following sections: 8:1-6 the example of the Macedonians, 8:7-15 the Corinthians urged to excel in giving, 8:16-24 the endorsement of those who will receive the collection, 9:1-5 be ready, so that you avoid humiliation, 9:6-15 an appeal to be generous.

- What stood out to you from this passage?
- What questions does the text leave you with?
- It's right that we don't advertise how much we give but take time to share with one another about when you started taking giving seriously? How long ago was it? Has it been hard to keep going? Have there been special moments of blessing or delight when you have been able to give to a particular need?

Stu approached the theme of Discipleship and Giving by addressing giving under the four Foundations of Discipleship that we explored in January.

Lordship of Jesus: what will I do with the money that God has entrusted to me to steward?

- How does acknowledging the Lordship of Jesus change your approach to money?
- What do you think Jesus meant when He said, 'For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also' (Matthew 6:19-24)

Gospel: the gospel compels us to be generous because Christ has been generous to us.

- Does it surprise you that Paul does not command the Corinthians to give?
- How does meditating on the cross and Christ's giving of himself encourage us to give?
- John Stott refers to earthly riches as 'meagre in comparison' to what Christ gave. How would you explain this perspective to a non-Christian friend?

The Call to Follow: we follow Christ's example of obedience and sacrifice.

- What can we learn from the Macedonian churches (2 Corinthians 8:1-5)?
- Are there stories you know if that have spurred greater giving in the church?
- Why do you think Barnabas gave the way he did in Acts 4:36-37?

The Call to Multiply: if we sow generously we will reap generously, in thanksgiving, praise, love and unity.

- How does giving help multiply the work of the gospel?
- Are there groups that you support in gospel work outside of church? What was it that motivated you to support those groups?

Stu finished with some practical instruction that our giving should be systematic or planned (1 Corinthians 16:2), proportionate (1 Corinthians 16:2, 2 Corinthians 8:12), sacrificial (2 Corinthians 8:3,9) and above all cheerful (2 Corinthians 9:7).

- Are there other practical principles you apply to giving?
- Which of these do you need to work on?

- Paul stimulates a bit of healthy competition between the churches in their giving (2 Corinthians 9:1-5). How can we similarly encourage one another in giving?

Response

- Is there anything from the preach and passage that you will be taking away to reflect on or work on?
- Do you find it challenging to think about giving? Why is this?

Prayer pointers

- Pray that Lord would grant us generous hearts and take delight in giving to the work of His kingdom.
- Pray for those you know, who need provision - whatever that provision may be.

Additional resources:

If you need some additional resources the below websites are useful:

- <https://www.gotquestions.org>
- <https://enduringword.com>
- <https://www.biblica.com>
- <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/>