

Scripture

II Corinthians 8:1-9

Look for our event!



Generosity

“Character Counts” - Week Eight

2/28/2021

I. Generosity Begins with Grace

- II Corinthians 8:1-9

Philippians 2:8 -

He humbled Himself to the point of death, even death on a cross

Eph. 1:3 -

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with all spiritual blessings in the heavenly places.

I. Generosity Begins with Grace

- II Corinthians 8:1-9

John 7:37-38 -

On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’”

A rich self has a distinct attitude toward the past, the present, and the future.

- It surveys the past with gratitude for what it has received, not with annoyance about what it hasn't achieved or about how little it has been given.

- A rich self lives in the present with contentment. Rather than never having enough of anything except for the burdens others place on it, it is “always having enough of everything” (2 Corinthians 9:8). It still strives, but it strives out of satisfied fullness, not out of the emptiness of craving.

- A rich self looks toward the future with trust. It gives rather than holding things back in fear of coming out too short, because it believes God's promise that God will take care of it. Finite and endangered, a rich self still gives, because its life is "hidden with Christ" in the infinite, unassailable, and utterly generous God, the Lord of the present, the past, and the future.

~**Miroslav Volf, Free of Charge (p. 110)**

II. Generosity Presumes Lordship **- II Corinthians 8:5**

Romans 12:1 -

Present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.

II. Generosity Presumes Lordship - II Corinthians 8:5

Mark 12:41-44 -

And he sat down opposite the treasury and watched the people putting money into the offering box. Many rich people put in large sums. And a poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which make a penny. And he called his disciples to him and said to them,...

II. Generosity Presumes Lordship - II Corinthians 8:5

Mark 12:41-44 -

“Truly, I say to you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the offering box. For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.”

III. The Time for Generosity is Now **- II Corinthians 8:2**

If our expenditure on comforts, luxuries, amusements, etc., is up to the standard common among those with the same income as our own, we are probably giving away too little. If our charities do not at all pinch or hamper us, I should say they are too small. There ought to be things we should like to do and cannot do because our charitable expenditure excludes them.

~C.S. Lewis, Mere Christianity, 81-82

IV. Generosity Meets Legitimate Needs

- II Corinthians 8:4



V. One Example

A. Begin with the Tithe - Malachi 3:10

Malachi 3:10 -

Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need.

V. One Example

B. Remember the Poor - Proverbs 14:21

Proverbs 14:21 -

Blessed is the one who is generous to the poor!

V. One Example

C. Mobilize Missions - Psalm 67:1-2

Psalm 67:1-2 -

May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us, that your way may be known on earth, your saving power among all nations.

V. One Example

D. Serve the Saints - Acts 2:42-45

Acts 2:42-45 -

And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need.

V. One Example

E. Seek the Welfare of the Community - Jeremiah 29:7

Jeremiah 29:7 -

Seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile.

VI. Multiple Manifestations

- Hebrews 13:16

Hebrews 13:16 -

Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

A. Generous with Your Time

B. Generous with Your Abilities

C. Generous with Your Resources

D. Generous with Your Measure

VI. Multiple Manifestations

A. Generous with Your Time

B. Generous with Your Abilities

C. Generous with Your Resources

D. Generous with Your Measure

Acts 20:35 -

It is more blessed to give than to receive.