



## **"A Life of Generosity"**

**Vision Series, #7 | February 11, 2018 | 2 Corinthians 8**

### **Gathering**

1. Can you think of a time when someone was generous toward you or your family? What did they give you and why did it affect you?
2. Can you think of a time when you gave something to another person or cause? Why did you give and how did it feel?

### **Looking at the Text**

This week, as we continue to examine the vision of Cornerstone, we study what it means to be generous. Part of our vision states that we want to "generously serve a world in need." But what does it mean to be generous? Where does the motivation to give your money come from? To answer that we are looking at 2 Corinthians 8. In this passage the Apostle Paul encourages the church in Corinth to help the church in Jerusalem. They had faced a famine and needed financial help; the Corinthians lived in a prosperous city and had the means to help. Paul took this opportunity to teach the church what generosity is all about.

### **Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-7**

1. The Macedonian Church was an example of generosity. Why was Paul so amazed at their willingness to give?
2. Look at verse 5. What did Paul say about what happened when the church decided to give? Where did their motivation come from?
3. In verse 7 Paul lists some of the things the church excels at. What are they? What does he want them to do now?

### **Read 2 Corinthians 8:8-12**

1. What is the ultimate motivation for our giving according to verse 9? What do you think Paul means when he says that Jesus became poor?
2. In verse 10 it sounds like the Corinthian church had started to take a collection for the Jerusalem church but never followed through. What does Paul want them to do in verse 11?
3. What do you think could have caused them to stop the collection?
4. What principle of giving does Paul share in verse 12?

### Read 2 Corinthians 8:13-15

1. In these verses Paul shares a few important principles about giving, specifically when it is to help others. What are they?
2. What is the goal of sharing with those in need as expressed in verse 14? What do you think that means?

### Application

1. How often do you buy things that you don't need? Do you see shopping as a hobby? How might that affect our giving generously to others?
2. Look again at verse 9. What is the connection between what Jesus did for us and how we are to give to others?
3. Do you give regularly to the church or to another Christian organization? If not, why do you think that is?
4. What is the hardest thing about being generous?