

SERMON | FINANCES IN GOD'S FAMILY

SERIES | LIFE TOGETHER

STUDY GUIDE | DAVID STOCKTON | SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2023

SERMON SUMMARY

We are looking at the financial aspect of life together in God's family. The purpose of this ministry for the saints, ministry of this service, this gift, is to supply the needs of the saints, creating many overflowing thanksgivings to God, glorifying God, and showing others we are submitted to the gospel of Christ.

The correct way to give, is to give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful and willing giver.

The promises to those who give God's way are abundant. God is able to make all grace abound to us, having all sufficiency, in all things, at all times. So, that we may abound in every good work and supply, multiply our seed for sowing, increase the harvest of our righteousness, and be enriched in every way to be generous.

Please note, this is not saying you will have all the money you want, for the things you want. What Paul is teaching as a promise from God, is you will have all the resources you need to experience God's abundant grace and sufficiency, to accomplish every work God has foreordained for you to walk in, multiply and increase your righteousness, and to be grateful and generous in every way. The result will be a beautiful, good, true, and lasting life. It will be one without regrets and one that will be labeled generous and not sparse.

Jesus is our example and He sacrificed it all. He sowed generously even to the point of spilling His blood. He said, "This is my body broken for you. This is my blood poured out for you."

When you see Jesus dying to make you His treasure, that will make Him yours. Money will cease to be the currency of your significance and security, and you will want to bless others with what you have. To the degree that you grasp the gospel, money will have no dominion over you. Think about His costly grace, until it changes you into a generous person. "The solution to stinginess is a reorientation to the generosity of Christ in the gospel, how he poured out his wealth for you." – Tim Keller

WHAT MORE COULD HE GIVE

When we were in darkness - *Jesus gave us His eyes so we could have light.*

When we were in shame - *Jesus gave us His skin to cover our nakedness.*

When we were stuck in confusion - *Jesus gave us His mind so we could have peace.*

When we were stuck in our diseases - *Jesus gave us His blood so we could be healed.*

When we were stuck in the decay of death - *Jesus gave us His breath so we could resurrect to life.*

And while our sins whipped and pierced Him on the cross, He did not say, "that's enough", or "I can't take this anymore", He said, "Father, let their punishment be on me and Your forgiveness be on them."

He gave His life, what more could He give?

Oh, how He loves you.

Oh, how He loves me.

Oh, how He loves you and me.

by David Stockton

SCRIPTURE READING

READ THIS WEEK'S BIBLE PASSAGES: 2 Corinthians 9:1-15 (ESV)

The Collection for Christians in Jerusalem

9 Now it is superfluous for me to write to you about the ministry for the saints, **2** for I know your readiness, of which I boast about you to the people of Macedonia, saying that Achaia has been ready since last year. And your zeal has stirred up most of them. **3** But I am sending the brothers so that our boasting about you may not prove empty in this matter, so that you may be ready, as I said you would be. **4** Otherwise, if some Macedonians come with me and find that you are not ready, we would be humiliated—to say nothing of you—for being so confident. **5** So I thought it necessary to urge the brothers to go on ahead to you and arrange in advance for the gift you have promised, so that it may be ready as a willing gift, not as an exaction.

The Cheerful Giver

6 The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. **7** Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. **8** And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. **9** As it is written, “He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.”

10 He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. **11** You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God. **12** For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God. **13** By their approval of this service, they will glorify God because of your submission that comes from your confession of the gospel of Christ, and the generosity of your contribution for them and for all others, **14** while they long for you and pray for you, because of the surpassing grace of God upon you. **15** Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!

BIBLE PASSAGE QUESTIONS

What stood out to you in these passages? Did the Lord highlight anything to you? What do we learn about the heart of God from these passages?

Read these passages again (use a different translation if helpful). How did these passages help to convict, correct, or encourage you?

GROUP DISCUSSION

DISCUSS THESE QUESTIONS WITH YOUR GROUP

1. What has been your relationship with money, from childhood into adulthood (spender, saver, or servant)? Were you introduced to good or bad financial habits?
2. Which barrier(s) do you feel are affecting your current giving mindset?
 - Lack of knowledge
 - Worry about providing
 - Drive to build up savings
 - Dreams for the future
 - Consumeristic culture
3. Do you think that the way you currently view money is how God would want you to view it?
4. On a scale of 1-10, 10 being the highest, how generous are you with finances?
5. Has there been a time, where God asked you to give, more than you were comfortable to give?
6. Do you have a story of God's provision, to share as an encouragement for the group?

PRAYER

Take some time for prayer requests and pray over one another before wrapping up.

