

Week of March 5, 2023

Philippines 4:10-20

Dynamics of Generosity

10 I rejoiced in the Lord greatly because once again you renewed your care for me. You were, in fact, concerned about me but lacked the opportunity to show it. 11 I don't say this out of need, for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I find myself. 12 I know how to make do with little, and I know how to make do with a lot. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being content—whether well fed or hungry, whether in abundance or in need. 13 I am able to do all things through him who strengthens me. 14 Still, you did well by partnering with me in my hardship.

15 And you Philippians know that in the early days of the gospel, when I left Macedonia, no church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving except you alone. 16 For even in Thessalonica you sent gifts for my need several times. 17 Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the profit that is increasing to your account. 18 But I have received everything in full, and I have an abundance. I am fully supplied, having received from Epaphroditus what you provided—a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God. 19 And my God will supply all your needs according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. 20 Now to our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.

Questions:

- Greed is hard to see in ourselves. When have you seen it in someone else? When have you seen it in yourself?
- Why do you think talking about money makes people so uncomfortable?
- God's strength is better than financial security. How can we be generous to make space for God's strength?
- When we give to other's we give to God and God gives to us. When was a time you experienced God's generosity?
- Only in the absence that generosity creates do we discover the generosity of God. What are some opportunities for generosity in your life right now?