

"GENEROUS: Part 2"

Sunday, January 24, 2016
GENEROUS | 2 Corinthians 9
By: Allen Coleman

I. INTRODUCTION

[VIDEO - Harvest]

1. *New Data from Time Magazine*

(1) 7/10 consider it rude or inappropriate to discuss personal money matters in a "non-work" setting.

(2) **Emily Post Pic** - 1922 Book of Etiquette

[**Emily Post Quote** - *Only a vulgarian talks ceaselessly about how much this or that cost him. A very well-bred man intensely dislikes the mention of money and never speaks of it (outside of business hours) if he can avoid it.*]

(3) Break down the data - 50% of millennial readily disclose their income, savings, or debts to other people.

2. *Worldview*

(1) Generosity is not about money, but stewardship.

(2) We don't want something **from** you, we want something **for** you.

3. *The Context*

(1) Generosity towards the struggling/persecuted church in Jerusalem

4. **Review**

(1) Generosity is an act of Worship

(2) Generosity requires hard-work

(3) Generosity is a demonstration of the Gospel

(4) Generosity is given proportionally

(5) Generosity eliminates disparity

(6) Generosity is administered by imperfect stewards

"GENEROUS: Part 2"

Sunday, January 24, 2016
GENEROUS | 2 Corinthians 9
By: Allen Coleman

II. CONTENT: PRINCIPLES 7-10

7. Generosity Inspires Generosity (v1-2)

- (1) "...your zeal has stirred up most of them."
 - (i) **Achaia** - southern province of modern day Greece where Corinth is.
 - (ii) The previous year, he told the church in Macedonia about the eager response of the Corinthians.
 - (iii) Their eager generosity inspired generosity throughout the Achaia region.
- (2) Application:
 - (i) Generosity inspires generosity. It does so in those:
 - (ii) **Receiving** - It is difficult to receive generosity and not give it (e.g. Horizon/Wisemans)
 - (iii) **Witnessing** - It is difficult to watch others be generous and not want to get in on the action; our families

[**PS. 37:26** - He is ever lending generously, and his children become a blessing...]

[**RO. 12:10** - Love one another...**Outdo** one another in showing honor.]

- (iv) Not in the size of the act...but in the regularity of the lifestyle.
- (v) Which leads to #8...

8. Generosity Exceeds Eagerness (v3-5)

- (1) "...so that our boasting about you may not prove empty in this matter..."
 - (i) Paul is concerned that their eagerness is turning into emptiness.
 - (ii) The year before, when he told them about the Jerusalem need, everyone in Corinth go excited about helping and showing generosity.
 - (iii) However, over time, that eagerness started to wane.
 - (iv) The Macedonians, by contrast, were steady and stable...they were **regular** contributors to the need in Jerusalem (hallmark #2 of giving).
 - (v) Corinth - started fast; finished slow
 - (vi) Macedonia - started slow (harder times); finished fast
- (2) Application:
 - (i) Generosity is more than desire...its discipline.

"GENEROUS: Part 2"

Sunday, January 24, 2016
GENEROUS | 2 Corinthians 9

By: Allen Coleman

- (ii) It is not just a one time act; it's a lifestyle.
- (iii) I think one of the reasons people fail to be generous is they think envision it looking like they see popular culture. That the act needs to be so substantive with regards to its sacrifice, they we can't participate unless we can do so.
- (iv) And while, yes, sometimes God asks us to respond in big ways sometimes relative to **our time** (people living with others at Anthem - more than anywhere I've been), **our talent** (volunteering in major roles - deacons/elders), or **our treasure** (lump sum)...the normative is a simple, but frequent lifestyle of generosity.
- (v) Generosity is hallmarked by consistency, lest it be no more than idol fervency.
- (vi) That's what I'm worried about with a series like this...delight that doesn't lead to discipline. Whereas discipline, often leads to delight.

9. Generosity Reaps Bountifully (6,8-12a)

- (1) "...whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully..."
 - (i) Paul is saying Macedonia is involved in a high-yield investment.
 - (ii) Their generosity is sowing into the gospel which, as a result, is advancing the church in a hard and persecuted region.
 - (iii) More people are coming to know Christ. People are being served and cared for. And they are Making Jesus Known, accordingly.
 - (iv) They realized generosity is the better investment (see v8)
- (2) Application:
 - (i) Paul is saying to us this morning that you reap what you sow.

[PR. 11:24-25 - One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want. Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered.]

- (ii) Not in the way some have abused this passage: **prosperity gospel**.
- (iii) Last week, Christian Smith: **1/4 give nothing**. Meaning Christians who say that Jesus is their highest treasure, their greatest prize. Christo-centric, gospel-centered. What did you do for the cause? Nothing!

"GENEROUS: Part 2"

Sunday, January 24, 2016
GENEROUS | 2 Corinthians 9

By: Allen Coleman

- (iv) So then what **are** you investing in? And from Christian worldview, have you ever stopped to consider the return on that investment?
- (v) Time - work vs family
- (vi) Treasure - stuff; hobbies; travel?
- (vii) How do we balance all of this? Let me give a verse that might bothers some (politically conservative; **poverty gospel**)

[ECC. 5:19] - *Everyone also to whom God has given wealth and possessions and power to enjoy them, and to accept his lot and rejoice in his toil—this is a gift of God.]*

- (viii) Goes against a **poverty gospel**; gnostics = physical bad

(3) Luxury/Hobbies

- (i) **Practical Test** - (1) Is this investment proportional to my means (chevy volt vs camero); (2) does quality factor into this investment; (3) Is it good for efficiency in life/ministry?
- (ii) **Spiritual Test** - (1) Is it good for my soul or for your soul and the souls of the people around you? (2) Is it affordable without saying to the world that you love things and are into the pride of possessions? (3) is excess or status driving this investment (BMW - Tony Campolo)
- (iii) The world is telling you if you make a lot, own the symbols of the fact that you make a lot. That's the way the world thinks. All the airplane magazines say that: "You've earned it! Buy it!"
- (iv) (4) Is it affordable without hindering generosity?
- (v) I don't think God minds us being channels of a lot of money. You make a lot of money, and you're generous with a lot of money.

10. Generosity Evidence Faith (v7,13-14)

- (1) "...because of your submission that comes from your confession of the gospel of Christ..."
 - (i) BECAUSE = the reason for their generosity - living/active faith
- (2) Application:
 - (i) It's not **the** evidence; it's **an** evidence. Saving faith (Paul here) and living faith:

[MT. 6:26] - *Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?]*

"GENEROUS: Part 2"

Sunday, January 24, 2016
GENEROUS | 2 Corinthians 9

By: Allen Coleman

(ii) Our spiritual life is tied to our investments:

[**PR. 112:5** - *It is well with the man who deals **generously**...*]

[**PR. 22:9** - *Whoever has a **bountiful** eye will be blessed...*]

[**PR. 21:13** - *Whoever closes his ear to the cry of the poor will himself call out and not be answered.*]

[**AC. 20:35** - *In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'*"]

(iii) Here's a verse that you're not going to like on the other side from Ecc.

[**MT. 10:42** - *And whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward.*"]

(iv) Ecc. lends itself to a more politically conservative worldview; here, Jesus is sounding more politically liberal (services).

(v) But, politics wasn't driving their generosity.

(vi) Their generosity was produced by the Gospel, not any other compulsion.

(vii) **Regular**

[**JN. 19:30** - *When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "**It is finished,**" and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.*]

(viii) **Sacrificial**

[**RO. 3:24b-25** - *...Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a **sacrifice**...to be received by faith.*]

(ix) **Cheerful** = not grudgingly

[**HE. 12:2** - *...looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the **joy** that was set before him endured the cross...*] Giving is: **regular** (lifestyle), **sacrificial** (out of what you have, not out of what you don't...which also means, not out of surplus), **cheerful**.

"GENEROUS: Part 2"

Sunday, January 24, 2016
GENEROUS | 2 Corinthians 9
By: Allen Coleman

III. CONCLUSION (v12b,15)

1. *Back where we started...worship.*

[**EPH. 1:3** - Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.]

[**1 TI. 6:18-19** - They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that **which is truly life.**]

- (1) It used to be said: "I am thankful for God in and through you, not just you"
- (2) Giving generously needs to change, but just as much, receiving.
- (3) Don't listen to this in view of the past, but in light of your future.