

11/7/2022



When Money is Tight: This series is designed to help us be great stewards of the mammon that God has blessed upon us. When money is tight or abundant, God expects us to steward his money wisely.

Please read: 2 Corinthians 8:1-24

8 And now, brothers and sisters, we want to tell you what God's grace has done in the churches in Macedonia. ²These believers have been tested by great troubles, and they are very poor. But their great joy caused them to be very generous in their giving. ³I can tell you that they gave as much as they were able and even more than they could afford. No one told them to do this. It was their idea. ⁴But they asked us again and again—they begged us to let them share in this service for God's people. ⁵And they gave in a way that we did not expect: They gave themselves to the Lord and us before they gave their money. This is what God wants.

⁶So we asked Titus to help you finish this special work of giving. He is the one who started this work. ⁷You are rich in everything—in faith, in speaking ability, in knowledge, in the willingness to help, and in the love you learned from us. So now we want you to be rich in this work of giving too.

⁸I am not ordering you to give, but I want to see how real your love is by comparing you with others who have been so ready and willing to help. ⁹You know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. You know that he gave up his heavenly riches for you. He gave up everything so that you could be richly blessed.

¹⁰This is what I think you should do: Last year you were the first to want to give, and you were the first who gave. ¹¹So now finish the work you started. Then your "doing" will be equal to your "wanting to do." Give from what you have. ¹²If you want to give, your gift will be accepted. Your gift will be

judged by what you have, not by what you don't have. ¹³We don't want you to have troubles while others are comforted. We want everything to be equal. ¹⁴At this time you have plenty and can provide what they need. Then later, when they have plenty, they can provide what you need. Then everyone will have an equal share. ¹⁵As the Scriptures say,

"Those who gathered much did not have too much,
and those who gathered little did not have too little."

¹⁶I thank God because he gave Titus the same love for you that I have. ¹⁷Titus agreed to do what we asked. He wanted very much to come to see you. ¹⁸We are sending with Titus the brother who is praised by all the churches. He is praised because of his service to the Good News. ¹⁹Also, he was chosen by the churches to go with us when we carry this gift. We are doing this service to bring honor^[a] to the Lord and to show that we want to help.

²⁰We are being careful so that no one will criticize us about the way we are caring for this large gift. ²¹We are trying to do what is right. We want to do what the Lord accepts as right and also what people think is right.

²²Also, we are sending with them our brother who is always ready to help. He has proved this to us in many ways. And he wants to help even more now because he has much faith in you.

²³Now about Titus—he is my partner. He is working together with me to help you. And about the other brothers—they are sent from the churches, and they bring honor to Christ. ²⁴So show these men that you have love. Show them why we are proud of you. Then all the churches can see it.

- 1) What does Paul want the Corinthian church to know about the Macedonian churches?
- 2) What does Paul want the Corinthian church to know about God and his Son Jesus Christ?
- 3) What does Paul want the Corinthian church to know about grace and generosity (circle all the words that focus on grace/generosity)?
- 4) What is the Lord saying to you about stewardship?
- 5) **Dig Deeper:** read and meditate on Mark 12:41-44