

Genuine Generosity

Intro:

Lk 16:1-15

Jesus talked about money more than He talked about faith and prayer combined - 11 of His 40 or so recorded parables were about money...why

Because our money reveals our master...or put another way our generosity reveals our genuineness.

Problem:

2 cor 8:1-9

The unshakable generosity of the Macedonians revealed the unshakeable foundation of their lives...

Luther once said "there are 3 conversions necessary: the conversion of the heart, the conversion of the mind and the conversion of the purse"

Their generosity was proven to be genuine when through their poverty they remained steadfastly generous

but poverty is not a pre-requisite necessary to prove genuineness

The Corinthians also had a genuine, God given desire to be generous, but how could they prove it?

They were not under a trial of affliction like the Macedonians, nor were they poor like the Macedonians. What did genuine generosity look like in their circumstance...what does it look like in ours?

Main Idea:

Genuine generosity is
disciplined generosity
deliberate generosity
diligent generosity

Implication:

Phil 2:1-13

The Bible says we must have this attitude, the one Christ has...

The sacrificial generosity of Christ was not a one time one moment of passionate generosity but a sustained, longterm, disciplined, deliberate, diligent sacrificial act of obedience.

Application:

Genuinely bowing your knee in worship means
Being disciplined in your generosity - working hard at it
Being deliberate in your generosity - planning for it
Being diligent in your generosity - being wise about it

This, more than any emotional outburst or sensation in a smoke filled room with a rocking band, is worship.

Articles for further study:

<https://www.jesusfilm.org/blog-and-stories/jesus-talk-about-money.html>

<https://www.nytimes.com/guides/smarterliving/giving-tuesday-how-to-give>

[https://www.resourceumc.org/-/media/umc-media/2020/03/25/11/29/
the_generosity_gap_plus_webinar.ashx?](https://www.resourceumc.org/-/media/umc-media/2020/03/25/11/29/the_generosity_gap_plus_webinar.ashx?)

[https://www.resourceumc.org/-/media/umc-media/2020/03/25/11/29/
the_generosity_gap_plus_webinar.ashx?
la=en&rev=d5f5d4f6753143e3988027670a16685e&hash=02388CF94B9588E9D82D077920C9856A07A7F
94B](https://www.resourceumc.org/-/media/umc-media/2020/03/25/11/29/the_generosity_gap_plus_webinar.ashx?la=en&rev=d5f5d4f6753143e3988027670a16685e&hash=02388CF94B9588E9D82D077920C9856A07A7F94B)

Genuine Generosity

Text:

Genuine generosity is disciplined generosity

2Corinthians 8:10 And in this matter I give my judgment: this benefits you, who a year ago **started** not only to do this work but also to **desire** to do it.

2Corinthians 8:11 **So now finish** doing it as well, so that your readiness in **desiring it may be matched by your completing** it out of what you have.

1 cor 16:1-4 (it worked - they had begun a work...now it was time to finish what they started - disciplined set aside each week)

(lk 14:25-33 count the cost beginning a tower...which one did the will of the father matt 21:28-32)

James 2:14-26 (Paul is inviting them to prove the legitimacy of their desire through their deeds)

2 Tim 4:6-8 (starting is just the first step - finishing the race is the goal...there is an important neglected principle here)

2 Tim 2:1-7 (desire without discipline to accomplish it is worthless...genuine generosity is disciplined generosity - be consistent in your generosity - work hard at it)

deliberate generosity

2Corinthians 8:12 For if the **readiness** is there, it is **acceptable according to what a person has**, not according to what he does not have.

2Corinthians 8:13 For I do not mean that others should be eased and you burdened, but that as a matter of fairness

2Corinthians 8:14 **your abundance at the present time should** supply their need, so that their abundance may supply your need, that there may be fairness.

2Corinthians 8:15 As it is written, "Whoever gathered much had nothing left over, and whoever gathered little had no lack."

2 thess 3:6-12 (the most distracting part of this section is the term fairness - Paul is not speaking of communism or socialism he was not trying to make the poor Macedonians have equity with the wealthy Corinthians...so what was he calling for when he spoke of fairness?)

rom 15:22-29 (calling both rich and poor gentiles to have equity with the poor Christian Jews - mutual participation in the work of God towards those who carried the load previously - drawing our attention to their previous load he brings up their lesson with the mana...)

exodus 16:9-36 (mana was clearly from God clearly for a purpose - it was to be used in an acceptable way - they had to be ready for it to plan for it to be diligent about it)

deut 11:8-17 (God wanted His people to always remember where their abundance came from and what it was for)

Jer 2:11-13 (but they, like us forgot - they sought self sufficiency and self satisfaction - financial security and autonomy - literally the American dream)

lk 12:13-21 (it is not that abundance is bad but that it is not an end in itself - our problem is not that we don't have money but that it is likely already spoken for - it is laid up in investments, in bills and in debt for ourselves - we have made no deliberate plan for generosity)

1 Tim 6:6-10 (abundance can be dangerous - not because abundance is bad - but because our heart is bad - how can we guard our hearts? Contentment - I can do all things - even abundance - thru Christ (Phil 4)...also by our readiness...)

1 Tim 6:17-19 (God is not against us enjoying abundance - He is against us hoarding it - losing ourselves in it - He wants us to be ready to share) eph 4:28 (this is about deliberateness - genuine generosity is deliberate generosity - plan for it)

diligent generosity

2Corinthians 8:16 ¶ But thanks be to **God, who put into the heart of Titus** the same **earnest care** I have for you.

2Corinthians 8:17 For he not only accepted our appeal, but being himself **very earnest** he is going to you of his own accord.

2Corinthians 8:18 With him we are sending the brother who is famous among all the churches for his preaching of the gospel.

2Corinthians 8:19 And not only that, but he has been appointed by the churches to travel with us as we carry out this act of grace that is being ministered by us, for the glory of the Lord himself and **to show our good will**.

2Corinthians 8:20 We take this course **so that no one should blame us** about this generous gift that is being administered by us,

2Corinthians 8:21 **for we aim at what is honorable** not only in the Lord's sight but also in the sight of man.

2Corinthians 8:22 And with them we are sending our brother whom we have often **tested and found earnest** in many matters, but **who is now more earnest than ever** because of his **great confidence in you**.

2Corinthians 8:23 As for Titus, he is my partner and fellow worker for your benefit. And as for our brothers, they are messengers of the churches, the glory of Christ.

2Corinthians 8:24 So **give proof** before the churches **of your love** and of our boasting about you to these men.

2 kings 12:1-12 (without diligence nothing happens -...(Titus 1:5-9) Paul calls for the appointment of elder with proven character to put in place trustworthy practices to manage the money on the church - finance advisory committee since day one - but elders plural ultimately responsible (unanimity) to handle church's money to put safeguards in place... - genuine generosity is diligent generosity - be wise about it- this is about more than mere bureaucratic administration...)
rom 12:1 (it is about acceptable worship - We tend to think of worship as something that happens in a moment of passion or emotion we don't tend to put terms like disciplined, deliberate, diligent in the same realm of worship - but we should...)

Phil 2:1-13 (implication/application)