



PART 2: GOD'S ECONOMY

Sermon Notes

Text: 2 Corinthians 9:6-15

Introduction:

Wealth is "vanity," and "meaningless." ~King Solomon

"Don't try to be a billionaire. It's overrated." ~Bill Gates

Luke 12:15 "Even when a person has an abundance, his life does not result from the things he possesses"

God's economy doesn't work like the world's economy. Paul addresses the Corinthian church to remind them of their commitment to give, and to help them *think* properly about money in God's economy.

1. The Source of God's Economy

2 Corinthians 9:10 "Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness."

1 Corinthians 4:7 "What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as though you did not?"

Malachi 3:8,10 "Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob me. "But you ask, 'How are we robbing you?' "In tithes and offerings...Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house.

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Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it."

1 Timothy 6:17:19 "Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.

2. The Heart of God's Economy

2 Corinthians 9:7 "Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

Matthew 6 "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also"

Generosity flows from a transformed heart. When God touches the heart, the hand opens.

The central idea (heart) of generosity is *sowing*. A farmer never spends seeds; he sows them. We never spend money at church or on missions; we sow money.

3. The Results of God's Economy

Penticton Vital signs stats 2013

- 20% of Penticton tax payers claimed charitable donations on their tax return. Down from 22% in 2011. Down from national average of 23%
- Median donation in 2013 was \$320. Down from \$370 in 2011.

2 Corinthians 9:6 "Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously."

Malachi 3:10-11 about tithing: "Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it."

Bethel Church Penticton - Sunday, June 14, 2015 - Pastor Dave Funk

2 Corinthians 9:11 “You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.”

Acts 20:35 "it is more blessed to give than to receive"

Generosity is not something we want FROM you. It's something we want FOR you.

Conclusion:

2 Corinthians 8:9 “For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.”

Every treasure in the world will ask you to die for it. Jesus doesn't ask you to die for him; he died for us. We were his treasure. Now he's ours.

Application: Ask God to speak to your heart about how to be more generous.

Life Group Discussion

1. Warm up: Why do you think Bill Gates said being a billionaire is “overrated”? Do you find it hard to believe him? Why or why not?
2. What difference does it make when you believe that God is the source of all your good things? If God is the source of everything good, does that make him the source of everything bad?
3. Read the main passage for the sermon series: 2 Corinthians 9:6-15.
 - Would you have asked Paul any follow up questions if you had the chance?
 - How does deciding “in your heart” differ from deciding “in your head”? Why does Paul emphasize this?

- What's the difference between “sowing” and “spending”? Is this an important distinction when it comes to generosity? Why or Why not?

4. Consider the Penticton Vital Signs statistics. In your opinion, are these positive numbers or negative ones? Do they say anything about our community? How can Christians set an example in this area?
5. If we “sow generously” with money, does that mean you'll “reap generously” in the form of money? What else might we reap? What else could we sow?
6. Pray together:
 - a) Pray that God would make us generous people.
 - b) Other requests:
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