

LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

2 Corinthians Series

These questions are for the **September 9, 2018** sermon, "The Example to Follow." Please read the sermon passage (2 Corinthians 8:1-15) together out loud.

Sermon Outline

IN ORDER TO EXCEL IN THE GRACE OF GIVING, CONSIDER . . .

1. The Macedonian churches, who modeled the grace of giving instructively (1-8)
 - a. These churches are at Philippi, Thessalonica and Berea
 - i. Located in smaller cities and being generally looked down upon.
 - ii. Macedonian churches (1) are being held up as an example to the wealthier and more sophisticated "big city" church of Corinth.
 - b. Though they lived in "extreme poverty,"
 - i. they also chose to live in an abundance of joy (2)
 - ii. they gave proportionately (according to their means) (3)
 1. they did not want their poverty remove the joy of participating.
 2. they "begged," not for money, but for the privilege of giving (4)
2. The LORD Jesus, who exemplified the grace of giving sacrificially (9)
 - a. Jesus left heaven (riches) to come to earth in human form (poverty, Philippians 2:1-11)
 - b. Jesus accomplished the will of his Father perfectly, conquering death (riches)
 - c. As we enter into his "poverty," we receive all of the riches of God in Christ Jesus!
3. The Israelite people, who experienced the grace of giving daily (13-15)
 - a. Consider how God supplied manna daily when his people wandered in the wilderness.
 - b. We are each in the place of daily needing what only God can supply from his riches.
 - c. God indeed supplies our "daily bread" need as we turn to him.

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: We live in a world where many people are on the take, especially when their resources are diminished. But the Macedonian churches were "on the give," even though they lived in "extreme poverty." They wanted to participate in relieving the poverty of the church in Jerusalem. Are you content with what you have? Are you able to say "no" to spending money on yourself so that you can joyfully give to the church and others?
2. Based on #1, above: We manage that which God owns. God owns everything, including your house, your 401K and your car. How can you improve at managing resources as if they belong to God, and not you?
3. Based on #2, above: The ultimate and best example of and motivation for giving is Jesus Christ. Those who know him have received the riches of heaven and life because he became "poor" in our place. How have you benefitted (gained riches) from Christ's poverty? Do you value these riches above worldly riches? How is this manifested in your life and heart?
4. Based on #3, above: We live in the richest nation in the history of the world. The concept of being dependent upon God to supply daily food is rather foreign to us. But what spiritual need exists in your life that you are dependent upon God to supply? How has he supplied this need?