

UNSTOPPABLE GENEROSITY

The Transformation for Adult LifeGroups

We give generously.

OCTOBER 21, 2018/OCTOBER 24, 2018

TODAY'S TEXT

Text: **2 Corinthians 9:1-15**

There is no need for me to write to you about this service to the Lord's people. ² For I know your eagerness to help, and I have been boasting about it to the Macedonians, telling them that since last year you in Achaia were ready to give; and your enthusiasm has stirred most of them to action. ³ But I am sending the brothers in order that our boasting about you in this matter should not prove hollow, but that you may be ready, as I said you would be. ⁴ For if any Macedonians come with me and find you unprepared, we—not to say anything about you—would be ashamed of having been so confident. ⁵ So I thought it necessary to urge the brothers to visit you in advance and finish the arrangements for the generous gift you had promised. Then it will be ready as a generous gift, not as one grudgingly given. ⁶ Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. 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. ⁸ And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. ⁹ As it is written: "They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever." 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. 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. ¹² This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. ¹³ Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. ¹⁴ And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. ¹⁵ Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

FIRST THOUGHTS

- ° How has the generosity of others impacted your life today?

Watch the Video

UNDERSTAND THE CONTEXT

Corinth was a major city in the Roman Empire as it sat at a crossroads of trade. It was founded as a Greek city long before the Romans and was very cosmopolitan. Paul originally visited Corinth in Acts 18 and founded the church there. The husband-and-wife team of Priscilla and Aquila were especially helpful as leaders of the Corinthian church. Over time, however, other false teachers came to dominate the church and discredit Paul. Paul wrote multiple letters to the church in Corinth to address these problems. The two letters to the Corinthians in the New Testament are full of Paul's corrections to the church there. They are also very personal and reveal Paul's frustrations and broken heart over the path the church he started had taken.

DISCUSS THE VIDEO

- What are some characteristics of people who are generous? What about people who are not generous?
- Who are some people you find it easy to be generous to? Who are some people it's hard to be generous to?

> **Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-10**

- These verses talk about deciding in our heart what to give. How do we do that? What about where to give?
- Churches can be really good at applying pressure to give (so can charities and infomercials!). Why does God not want guilt to be the motivating factor in generosity? Why is the heart so important to Him? How can the church and we as Christians encourage generosity without using pressure or compulsion?
- Verse 10 shows us generosity starts with God. How have you experienced God's generosity in your life? What difference did it make?

> **Read 2 Corinthians 9:11-15**

- What is this "ministry of giving"? How is giving a ministry?
- This passage lays out a lot of the benefits of giving. What are the obstacles to giving? What keeps us from being generous?
- How can we overcome some of these obstacles to generosity?

Take 20 . . .

Choose one or more of these Take 20 Challenges to complete this week:

- Take twenty \$1 bills and ask God to give you opportunities to be generous to others with them. Use them to leave an extra tip, buy for someone in need, or make a donation to something.
- Be generous with your time—take 20 extra minutes to listen to that person you don't like talking to. Spend 20 more minutes doing something your kids or spouse like to do more than you do. Volunteer somewhere.
- Don't feel like you can be generous financially? Spend 20 minutes looking for help on establishing financial security so that you can be generous. Check out www.crown.org or www.daveramsey.com for ideas and resources.
- 20% giving challenge (you probably just stopped reading)—if you are a tither, set a period of time where you will double your 10% giving to 20%. It could be for a week, a month, whatever.

UPCOMING LESSONS

Focus more on the idea of God's Unstoppable Truth by reading in your Personal Devotional Guide.

10/28 Unstoppable Mission—We live beyond ourselves.

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE

22nd - Job 11-12; Acts 15-16 | **23rd** - Job 13-14; Acts 17-18 | **24th** - Job 15; Acts 19-20 | **25th** - Job 16; Acts 21-23 | **26th** - Job 17; Acts 24-26 | **27th** - Job 18; Psalm 114; Acts 27-28 | **28th** - Job 19; Mark 1-2