

REStore: Generosity, Part II

July 18, 2021 2 Corinthians 9:6-15

OPENING QUESTION

In the movie *Wall Street* (1987), Gordon Gekko says, "Greed, for lack of a better word, is good." What do you think about this statement? Is our country based on greed? What is the Kingdom of God based on?

GREED IS THE ENEMY OF GENEROSITY -

2 Corinthians 9:6-7

- Paul really wants us to get the point: you reap what you sow.
- Would farmers expect a harvest if they never sowed?
- Greed is one of the deadly sins, but it doesn't get the same attention as some of the others, like lust.
- In Luke 12, Jesus criticizes the Pharisees for only giving their tithe, (according to the law) without actually helping anyone.
- Deut. 15:10 says, "You shall give to him freely, and your heart shall not be grudging when you give to him, because for this the Lord your God will bless you in all your work and in all that you undertake."
- What if our money and our actions toward others were consistent with one another?

What does a Kingdom harvest look like? When you invest your money, do you expect an immediate profit? How do you choose to invest (spend)? What does an investment in the Kingdom of God look like?

WE DON'T OWN ANYTHING, WE STEWARD EVERYTHING - 2 Corinthians 9:8-10

- God is lavishly generous and abundantly supplies us with everything necessary to have enough for our own needs and to be generous with others.
- A resistance to give generously, then, reflects a refusal to trust that God is all sufficient and all gracious to give us ALL we need, but not necessarily all we want.
- Paul quotes Psalm 112:9, linking generosity as one sign of righteousness.
- Your money is a sign of the Kingdom, on earth as it is in heaven. The more you give it away, the more you put it into reweaving the fabric of creation. That's the harvest your money can have now!

Is Psalm 112:9 saying "If you give your money away, then that will make you a righteous and decent and morally good person."? What does it mean? How does our generosity further the Kingdom of God?

GOD INCREASES OUR STANDARD OF LIVING TO INCREASE OUR STANDARD OF GIVING -

2 Corinthians 9:11-15

- Jesus is the ultimate gift. Jesus is the ultimate treasure. Every other treasure you have to purchase. Jesus is the only treasure that purchased you.
- Now if Jesus is that ultimate treasure and Jesus treasured you in the most ultimate way, Paul is simply saying you are going to have a completely different approach to your money
- Your money will no longer be your hope; it will be a sign of your hope.

Where does your treasure lie? Where does your treasure come from? Are you sometimes afraid to be generous with your money? Why? Is Jesus your true treasure?



CLOSING QUESTIONS

Hear

What are some things that stood out to you in this week's sermon and Scriptures?

Obey

How has God been generous to you? What responsibility do we have to give our time, treasure, and talent for God's Kingdom? What is your motivation? What truths can be applied to your life from the verses this week?

Pray

Pray that God will show you His generosity, and how you can pay that generosity forward to others - not to earn God's favor, but in our love for others. Meditate on the words of the psalmist in Psalm 112:9. How does this passage provide an example for you to follow?