

5 2 Corinthians 8 – 9

GIVE LIKE A MACEDONIAN

The story so far

Paul has laid out the nature, challenge and joys of living to serve God. He rejoices that his relationship with the Corinthians has been restored, and that they are partners together in the ministry of the gospel.

talkabout

1. A homeless person is sitting by the doorway of the supermarket as you walk in. His sign says, "Cold, hungry and poor". What feelings and conflicting emotions does this sight raise in you? What would you do?

investigate

 Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-15

2. What does sacrificial giving look like (v 1-4)?

DICTIONARY

Titus (v 6): at this point, Titus was a member of Paul's mission team.

3. According to Paul, what is the ultimate reason for giving sacrificially (v 9)?

4. Who and what should we give to?

apply

5. How does the example of the Macedonians inspire or worry you?

- What can stop us giving more generously?

getting personal

Think and pray about your giving. Ask the Lord to make you more generous as you consider Christ's gracious love and provision for you.



optional

explore more

Read 2 Corinthians 8:13-24

Paul gives a second example of gospel-hearted service.

What are the marks of trustworthy Christian service that Titus and others show?

What practical measures does Paul take to ensure that the money is correctly and responsibly handled?

investigate

Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-15

- 6. What principles of giving does Paul lay out in verses 6-7?

Blank space for answer to question 6.

- 7. What will be the end result of such giving (v 11, 12, 14, 15)?

Blank space for answer to question 7.

- 8. Giving, according to Paul, is both good for us and promotes God's glory. How do these two work together?

Blank space for answer to question 8.

DICTIONARY

Sows (v 6): plants seed.
Reap (v 6): harvest.
Under compulsion (v 7): feeling you have to.
Abound (v 8): overflow; thrive.

apply

- 9. How can we be a bit more "reckless" in our own giving? Give some practical examples.

Blank space for answer to question 9.

- 10. How can we encourage each other to be more generous with what God has given to us, and encourage a spirit of generosity in our churches?

Blank space for answer to question 10.



getting personal

When did you last review your personal giving?

Plan a time when you can contemplate the love, grace and generosity of the Lord Jesus to you, and then rethink your giving.

pray

Ask God to raise up gospel workers of integrity, passion and determination in your church, who you will then generously send into the world. Pray that you would be one of them!

Give thanks for the goodness, grace and generosity of the Lord Jesus, who made himself poor so that you can be rich.

Ask the Lord to give you and your church a spirit of generosity, so that gospel workers will be supported and equipped to spread the good news, and the poor and needy helped.