

Creating Space. Expecting Harvest: Generosity Changes Lives—Especially You.

Sermon Notes

October 1, 2017

The Macedonians model generosity. **2 Corinthians 8:1-5**

- They were in an intensely difficult season of life yet they gave. (2)
- They gave beyond their ability to give. (3)
- They begged for the opportunity to bless generously others. (3b-4)
- This generosity was out of the overflow of their love for the Lord. (5a)
- The Lord directed their love back towards others, beyond any human expectations. (5b)

Why would you give beyond anyone's expectation to those that you do not even know?

How do you get to the place where you are pleading, even begging, for the opportunity to be generous?

Interview with Charlie Keller:

Disclaimer: I have asked you to share your story, due to the past couple of years I have heard you mention how much pursuing generosity with your life has changed you and how you want to inspire others towards generosity. You are not up here to be praised for your generosity, as we will keep that between you and God. However, your journey is important to be heard for the sake of inspiring others towards generosity.

Tell us how you became challenged and inspired to pursue a more generous lifestyle.

What have you found to be the barriers to living a lifestyle of generosity?

What are the pathways that inspire and enable a lifestyle of generosity?

The charge to follow the example of the Macedonians.

2 Corinthians 8:6-9

- Seeing the journey of generosity as an act of grace is foundational. (6)
- Excelling in faith, speech, knowledge and love is good, but also excel in giving. (7)
- It is a test of sincerity more than it is a requirement. (8)
- We do so because we are given the example of Christ who emptied himself of his riches that he might generously make us rich—in spirit and life. So by being generous we are simply paying it forward! (9)