

SCCC – GENEROSITY FROM THE POOR

S - Scriptures

“But since you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you—see that you also excel in this grace of giving.” II Corinthians 8: 7

C- Consideration

Paul wrote two full chapters challenging this church concerning generosity. He praised the Macedonia churches, contrasting their social condition, “We want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord’s people.” And so, he challenged them to put their words and faith into action, “Now finish the work, so that your eager willingness to do it may be matched by your completion of it, according to your means.” “Therefore show these men the proof of your love and the reason for our pride in you, so that the churches can see it.”

C – Commitment

One day Jesus was in the Temple with the disciples. During the collection time, many rich people threw in large amounts. But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a few cents. Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on.” Like the poorest from Macedonia, this woman had one of the greatest gifts someone should desire in generosity. The Corinthians were very charismatic believers, and the Scriptures pointed out a carnal competition among them about spiritual gifts. However, Paul challenged them to learn liberality. He encouraged them to fight against greed, to experience the promise of Jesus about giving, “it is more blessed to give than to receive.” Why would Jesus say that? Remember, that the great givers in our devotional were not the wealthy ones, but the poorest. When we are generous, spiritual windows open, bringing not just financial, but spiritual blessings to break spiritual burdens, so we experience freedom.

C – Call

My God, if poverty is not a barrier to give, living in this rich country should encourage me even more to be a giver. How many times my heart was caught by greed, and I lost the opportunity You placed before me to be blessed. Forgive me for such sin, and help me to take to my heart the blessings of generosity. Lord, teach me to excel in the grace of giving as Your Word taught today. In Jesus’ name, I pray. Amen.