



The Coming of Jesus and What it Teaches Us About Giving

2 Corinthians 8:9-15
May 8, 2022

The Big Idea: The most important and powerful force for transforming our self-centered lives is God's **Grace**. The fullest expression of Grace is in the coming of the Son of God to us. In the salvation Jesus brings, He makes us **compassionate**, loving, and **generous** towards others.

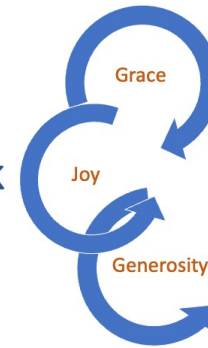
2 Corinthians 8:9-15 (ESV)

8 ⁹ For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though ***he was rich,*** yet for your sake ***he became poor,*** so that ***you*** by his poverty ***might become rich.***

¹⁰ And in this matter I give my judgment: this benefits you, who a year ago started not only to do this work but also to desire to do it.

¹¹ So now finish doing it as well, so that your readiness in desiring it may be matched by your completing it out of what you have. ¹² For if the readiness is there, it is acceptable ***according to what a person has, not according to what he does not have.*** ¹³ For I do not mean that others should be eased and you burdened, but that as a matter of fairness ¹⁴ your abundance at the present time should supply their need, so that their abundance may supply your need, that there may be fairness. ¹⁵ As it is written, "Whoever gathered much had nothing left over, and whoever gathered little had no lack."

The Pattern of God's Work



The Coming of Jesus and Our Giving:

1. The supreme and ultimate example of generosity is in the coming of **God's Son** to us.
2. Good beginnings in our commitments can be celebrated, but the real test of our hearts will be in **finishing** what we start.
3. God will never hold you responsible for what you do **not** have, but He does hold us accountable for what we do with what we do have.
4. In the family of God and as we live with a Kingdom mindset, we always consider our **abundance** as a potential source of blessing for those in need.
5. One day, the roles may be **reversed** and we will stand in need of people who know God's grace in Jesus and will joyfully, willingly turn their generous hearts in our direction.
6. God's assurance to us is that He will supply our needs. His provision is to be **used** and never **hoarded**.

"You can give without loving, but you cannot love without giving."

"Make all you can, save all you can, so that you can
give away all you can."

John Wesley
