

PROVERBS: Wisdom for Living

Study 14: Generosity that delights God

READ Proverbs 19:17 and 2 Cor 8:1-15 and **LISTEN** to Pastor Craig Baxter's [sermon](#).

We all know the story of Zacchaeus, in Luke 19. A wee little man who had a big greedy appetite for wealth. Yet upon receiving the gospel his grip upon his wealth was released and he generously gave it away. What is so astonishing is the powerful reversal the gospel created in this man. What we see in this story is that true salvation releases our grip upon this world and allows us to be generous with the things God gives us. In our study of Proverbs, under the theme Wisdom for Living, we will look at the wisdom of generosity that should define every true believer in Christ.

Main lesson: Knowing that Christ became poor that we might become rich in Him, we are called to show that we are Christ's disciples by our joy-filled generosity.

Questions:

1. Who in your life is someone that you would consider a generous person? What traits or values do you notice as they serve others? How would you like to grow in being generous to others?
2. From Proverbs 14:31, how is God involved in how we treat those in need and what does this tell you about God's expectation for all people to be generous?
3. How did the churches of Macedonia serve as an example of generous giving for the Corinthian church (2 Cor 8:1-5)? What characteristics especially stand out to you?
4. A. How does Christ's condescension (in 2 Cor 8:9) on behalf of His people provide the impetus for generous giving?

B. What do John 1:16; James 1:17; 1 Cor 4:7 tell you about the origin of all you have and how does knowing this protect from greed and promote generosity?

5. We've all been given resources of time, money, and giftedness. In what area would you most like to grow in being more generous to others?
6. How does generosity in a person affirm saving faith while greed demonstrates otherwise? See James 2:14-17; Prov 14:21; Matt 25:40-46.
7. What part does motivation play in a generosity that pleases God? See 1 Cor 13:3; 2 Cor 9:7.
8. What are some of the benefits of being a generous person from: Prov 11:24; 19:17; 21:26; 22:9.
9. Consider someone in your life today who would benefit from your generosity. How can you demonstrate generosity to that person today or this week?

STOP AND PRAY:

Confess: areas in your life where you have replaced generosity with greed

Pray: that you would comprehend the grace received through Christ, which would result in love and uncalculated generosity toward others