

The Cheerful Giver/God's Economy

November 7th and 10th, 2019

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 9.6-8

2 Corinthians 9.6-8 (NIV)

⁶ Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. ⁷ Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸ And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

James 1.17 (NIV)

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

Malachi 3.10 (NIV)

¹⁰ Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.

Read and Discuss

Introduction

Pastor Jacob continued his message series The Cheerful Giver based on Paul's words in 2 Corinthians 9.6-15. This week's message focused on the upside down way that God's economy works. Our economy is built on fear. God's economy is built on trust. We focus on what we have earned. But God is the giver of good gifts.

Engage the Scripture

- Read 2 Corinthians 9.6-15. Jacob described the upside down economy of God. When it comes to time, possessions, money and relationships the more we give away, the more we are able to reap joy. When have you found that giving led to unexpected receiving? When have you found that holding on to something limits what you receive?
- Read James 1.17. According to God's economy, our typical thinking: What's mine is not mine. Is transformed into understanding that it all belongs to God. The more I give away, the greater the return. Why is "What's mine is mine" thinking so common in our world today? Why are we reluctant to change that thinking?
- "Every good and perfect gift is from God." What do you have that you did not receive?
- Read Malachi 3.10. When have you tested God with your generosity? What did God do with your generosity?

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- 2 Corinthians 9.8 says, “God is able to bless you abundantly”. Do a blessing check. This may seem strange to list every good thing, but if you put it in the context of God being the source of everything, it will lead to gratitude.

Blessings from God that I have received:

- Read Malachi 3.10. The tithe described in this verse is about a principle—not an equation. The principle is to live off of less (because in God's economy—more comes from less). When have you seen abundance when you previously had seen scarcity?

Pray

God, thank you for your abundant blessings. Forgive me for not always seeing them. Help me to give freely to you. Amen.