

2 Corinthians 9:6-15 Living Generously, Part 3

When it comes to life: Our perspective plays a big part in how we approach things.

A) For instance- how we approach and function in marriage is going to be affected **by our perspective** of what marriage is supposed to be about.

B) Some pp to get perspective on marriage our going to turn to Oprah – Dr. Phil, Dr Laura – Dr. Dobson

1) Find out their thoughts and ideas for what makes for a healthy marriage

C) Others will turn to friends, parents, grand parents

1) **What do they think**- And I am sure that they can pick up some helpful insights from those sources

D) But as a Christian our first and foremost concern should be – **What does God think ... God Say**

1) He has given us – Eph 5 / 1 Peter 3 and SOS to give us insight into marriage / sex / even dating

E) Marriage is definitely an area where we need to know God's perspective – Need to know what God thinks

Another area where we need His perspective – We need to know what God thinks – is in the area of our finances – our possessions – our stuff.

A) Another area where God has a lot to say!

Today we are finishing this section of 2nd Corinthians started in Ch.8 – Paul talking about giving.

A) Recall – **Problem in Jerusalem** – persecution – famine - Church going thru tough times

B) Paul gets **an idea from the Lord** – help them and help bond the Gentile and Jewish believers

1) Take up an offering –

C) Shares the idea with the Gentile Churches – they are all on board – **Corinth played a leading part**

1) A year goes by - Time to collect – Corinth hasn't done anything yet.

Paul is now writing to encourage the Church of Corinth to follow thru on their

commitment.

A) **Examples of the Churches in Macedonia –**

B) **Gave in tough times / beyond ability / First to JC**

Result – Joy -

C) **Purpose: For their Benefit – Abound in this grace too/ others helped/ God Glorified**

D) **Then He gave the example of Jesus**

1) **Motivation for all service is a responding to Jesus love and gift for us.**

Today we are picking up in V. 6 of Ch. 9 –

But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.

There is a spiritual law involved here.

A) Principle that relates not just to giving but your marriage, family, ministry, friendships, Character.

B) **What and how you pour into those areas of your life is going to determine what & How you reap here and in eternity**

C) But before we consider this principle of Sowing and reaping – **lets consider how God views our Stuff**

1) If we can get His perspective I think it will help us to understand better what Paul is saying here.

Why I asked you to turn to Luke 16

A) We have noted in this series that Jesus had a lot to say about **money and finances**

B) In Fact he had more to say about money than any others subject

C) Did you know that one sixth of Matthew, Mark and Luke's gospels and 12 of the 38 parables have to do with Money matters

D) Why is that? – **God wants my money?** – NO –

1) If He really wanted it – just take it –

E) **God wants our heart** – He knows that – where our treasure is our heart is going to be also

1) He talks about money because – he knows that often times that is where our heart is

Of all the Parables where Jesus talked about finances this one I think – gives us a clear

view of God's perspective on that subject.

A)As we go through this – we will see there are **three lenses** from which God wants us to see our stuff !

V.1 He also said to His disciples: "There was a certain rich man who had a steward, and an accusation was brought to him that this man was wasting his goods

So there is this rich guy who is so rich that he has someone to manage his financial affairs while he plays golf – surfs hangs at the beach

A)He hears that the guy managing his money is doing a bad job – he is wasting and depleting his wealth.

V2 So he called him and said to him, 'What is this I hear about you? Give an account of your stewardship, for you can no longer be steward.'

B)So the Master says word on the street is you are doing a bad job – you are depleting my resources

1)so you cannot be my money manager anymore. **Fired**

C)Now here is what is implied in the story: The master gives the steward some time to wrap up some loose ends – get things in order.

1)Like gave him his two week notice. –

D)At the end of the two weeks bring me the Black book of accounts and know this that you are done.

3 "Then the steward said within himself, 'What shall I do? NIV **What shall I do Now!** For my master is taking the stewardship away from me. I cannot dig; I am ashamed to beg. 4 I have resolved what to do, that **when** I am put out of the stewardship, they may receive me into their houses.'

A)Here is what the money manager realizes – I have a little bit of time and a little bit of opportunity.

B) I need to use my time and my opportunity to leverage something for myself in the future.

1)Because when I lose my job I am not able to dig and I am ashamed to beg- I need to have some friends who are going to help me out.

C)So I need to leverage my time and my opportunity NOW in order to Secure my future?

5 "So he called every one of his master's debtors to him, and said to the first, 'How much do you

owe my master?' 6 And he said, 'A hundred measures of oil.' So he said to him, 'Take your bill, and sit down quickly and write fifty.'

A) So he cuts the bill in 1/2 !

B) You owe 100 that is a lot that is going to take you some time – but lets cut it in 1/2 - pay 50 now!

1) can you do that – yes I can do that – ok it is done

C) The man who owed the debt says Thanks – if there is ever anything that I can do for you – let me know –

1) Ok I will – sooner than you think.

7 Then he said to another, 'And how much do you owe?' So he said, 'A hundred measures of wheat.' And he said to him, 'Take your bill, and write eighty.'

A) Hey thanks – If there is ever anything that I can do – you let me know! – Oh don't worry I will

B) He goes thru everyone who owes his master anything and it becomes bargain day – Deal Day

C) He has authority to do that because he has a little bit of time and a little bit of opportunity

–

1) He is leveraging it for his own good.

D) Now the pp listening to Jesus tell this story I am sure are thinking – He is going to get it when the Master finds out.

Now in the Parables that Jesus taught the pp were always thinking – Ok someone in this parable represents God – someone represents me

A) Jesus was a Master story teller and these guys are thinking when the Master finds out this guy is going to Jail.

B) But Jesus is the one telling the parable so nothing happens like you would expect.

C) Jesus says guess what happened – they are all on the edge of their seats

8 So the master commended the unjust steward because he had dealt shrewdly. WHAT?

A) The Master says You are one shrewd dude

B) You are not mad? – Sure I am mad – but I can't be too mad because look what you did!

1) You realized you had a little bit of time and a little opportunity – You didn't want to dig and you didn't want to beg.

C)And so you took your **little bit of time and your little bit of opportunity to make sure you had somewhere to go in the future-**

1)So He commends the dishonest money manager

D)Now everyone is confused which one is me which one is God –

1)Is Jesus telling us to be dishonest – what is the point?

Jesus helps us out here because He is going to comment on the Parable v. 8B For the sons of this world are more shrewd in their generation than the sons of light.

A)Now this is huge because he is talking to pp who primarily believe in God – believe in Heaven

B)So this is what he is saying: The pp of this world, the pp who don't believe in God, who don't believe in heaven, who don't believe in the after life or eternity.

C)The pp who don't make decisions in light of those things

D)The pp who are mainly just thinking about this world they are more shrewd than those of you who believe in heaven. –

1)Those who actually believe there is an eternity

Why is that? Here is the point of the story –

A)Because they know how to take the little bit of time that they have and the little opportunity

B)AND they leverage it so that their future is good and secure and they are taken care of.

1)They know how to leverage the little bit now – the little bit here –

C)And those of you who believe in heaven and believe that you are going to spend eternity somewhere need to take a lesson from them.

D)You **need to take a play out of their play book!**

1)You need to learn a lesson from the dishonest money manager.

E)Because He took HIS little bit of time – his little opportunity and assured himself of something for the future.

Now Jesus goes on to explain the parable

A)And in doing so gives us three new lenses to view what we have been given by God.

9 "And I say to you, { COMMAND } make friends for yourselves by unrighteous mammon, that

when you fail, they may receive you into an everlasting home.

B)Unrighteous mammon other translations – worldly wealth!

1)Term worldly or unrighteous here in the sense that it is temporal – **not bad** – just temporary

C)Use temporary wealth to gain friends in eternity

1)So that when it is gone you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings

Here is the 1st Lesson: God wants us to see our money & our stuff – as a tool.

A)Use your temporary worldly wealth to that when you die and enter heaven there will be pp there to welcome you because they were touched by your generosity

B)Temporary worldly wealth: Car – House – Finances – not bringing it with you – No UHaul's

C)Example: Jr. High home group – Mr & Mrs Biernacki

1)Watched how we thrashed your place – you didn't seem to care – impact – trusted Jesus

D)Adult Home group – I met a group of pp there who loved me & supported me – pointed me to Jesus

1)I trusted Him – Here today – because of what happened in your home.

2)**Missions** – You gave –CCV – Ministry

1st Perspective: God wants us to see what we have as a tool. – Can be used to make an eternal impact.

A)So What do you have lying around – not being used – that you could sell – bless someone – or use that to give

B)Question that we need to ask ourselves is how can we use more of our stuff to broaden our impact

10 He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in what is least is unjust also in much. **What is he talking about here?/ Answer v11**

11 Therefore if you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches? 12 And if you have not been faithful in what is another man's, who will give you what is your own?

2nd lesson: What you have is also a test !

A)God is wanting to see if I am trust worthy –

B) **The test of stewardship**: We have all been given a little bit – Hey I have a little but that guy he has a lot – 1) A lot compared to who? YOU? - Not God

C) **God says I want to see what you do with what I gave you!**

1) God isn't concerned with how much we have but with what we do with what He has given us

D) **If we Faithful w/ Worldly temporary wealth –**

1) He will entrust us with true riches ie - Spiritual responsibility.

Just in case you are wondering what I am really talking about -

13 "No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon."

3rd Lesson: God wants us to see that what we have is a tool – a test and also an indicator –

A) **That how we handle our finances is an indicator of who we are really serving.**

B) **God would say that how you use your stuff is an indicator of who's you really are.**

C) **Jesus is saying the #1 competition that God faces for our affections is our Stuff / money**

1) Tells us what we value – tells HIM what our priorities are!

D) **So God's perspective on our finances – our stuff**

Tool – Test – Indicator

Now think about this: What do you think would happen we viewed our finances from that perspective

A) **View our spending differently –**

B) **Probably wouldn't be so inclined to give God the left over's!**

C) **Praying more about – God what do you want me to do with this?**

Notice how the story ends: V.14 Now the Pharisees, who were lovers of money, also heard all these things, and they derided Him. SNEERED

A) **The religious leaders derided him/ they sneered at him**

B) **You know why they sneered at him? Because they loved their money and Jesus was making them feel uncomfortable!**

C) **Maybe what we are talking about today makes you feel uncomfortable – but that is ok**

1) **God makes us feel uncomfortable in a lot of things**

Called conviction

And Being made uncomfortable is often the first step to being healed. Being made whole.

A)Example: My hip surgery: I was in pain before my hip surgery – I couldn't walk around the block

B)I was uncomfortable – which told me something was wrong!

C)After my hip surgery – I was in more pain more uncomfortable: I couldn't walk A BLOCK w/out crutches

1))But now I am healed – Walk miles no pain.

Listen is there an area of your life where God is making you uncomfortable: Conviction of HS

A)Part of making you whole – RIGHT

B)Before that happens He might have to make you more uncomfortable – CHANGES

1)Break off that relationship / get rid of something

C)All part of the process of making you right!

1)Don't fight it

So Luke 16 gives us a clear perspective on how God views what we have – TOOL – Test – Indicator

A)With that in mind – lets turn back to 2 Cor 9 and see how Paul wraps up this teaching

6 But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.

A)There is a spiritual law involved here. Law of sowing and reaping.

B)Right away – we see – ok we have been given a tool – Seed – seed needs to be sown.

1)Sow sparingly – reap sparingly –

Sow Bountifully – reap bountifully

C)Can't sow a little and expect a whole field to grow -Spiritual law and Principle here.

D)There are laws that we all live in conjunction with

1)Example Gravity – Jump – Hurt

2)Electricity: Don't see it and yet you pay for it – see the effects of it

Three Laws of Sowing and Reaping

#1 You reap AFTER the same kind! Apple seed – not plum tree

A) Sow wheat not going to get Corn

You reap after the same kind!

B) You sow to the spirit you are going to reap life

1) You sow to the flesh and you are going to reap corruption

C) Some pp spend **their whole lives sowing to nonsense and they want to reap spiritual fruit**

1) it is not going to happen

D) Not going to reap life or fruit when you are sowing to the flesh

E) So If you sow spiritually – into your marriage/ family you are going to reap spiritual things!

#1 You reap AFTER the same kind!

#2 You reap AFTER you sow!

A) The Harvest comes after the planting - -

B) Now for a believer that can be tough – because it can be a long season of sowing into your marriage / ministry before you see some fruit – or before the harvest comes

C) We want instant Harvest – instant fruit – but it never happens that way.

Paul wrote in Galatians 6:7,9 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. 9 And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.

Here is a mistake the unbeliever or the Backslidden person makes

A) He sows to his flesh – and nothing happens – no immediate consequences – business is still going good –

B) He thinks God is still blessing Sure I am sleeping with my girlfriend or I am getting high or whatever it might be – It is cool – things are still going good

Two reasons – God is long suffering in his grace – giving you time to come to your senses turn to Him

A) The 2nd reason is the Harvest doesn't come right away – but know this: it will come

B) Sow the flesh – reap Destruction – *Hosea 8:7 "Those who sow to the wind, will reap the whirlwind."*

C) In other words if you take the seed of your resources and sow to every wind of the world / every passing fancy / every earthly pleasure

D) Don't be surprised if you having nothing Left – don't be surprised if you don't have anything to show for your efforts

C) Sow to spiritual things – Reap Life – Fruit – blessing here and in eternity!

#1 You reap AFTER the same kind!

#2 You reap AFTER you sow!

#3 You reap MORE than you sow!

A) You plant one apple seed - but you get a tree with tons of apples on it !

B) In the Spiritual realm – you sow to the Spirit & God is never going to be your debtor

Proverbs 3:9-10

“Honor the Lord with your possessions, And with the firstfruits of all your increase; 10 So your barns will be filled with plenty, And your vats will overflow with new wine.”

C) You will always reap more than you sow

Sow bountifully – reap bountifully

Sparingly reap sparingly

D) Use your tools – for God – reap abundantly

7 So let each one {Not some} give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.

A) Let each one give as he purposes in his heart

B) Here is the indicator. – How we give and serve is going to be revealed by our hearts

We have already seen this: 2 Cor 8:8 *“I speak not by commandment, but I am testing the sincerity of your love by the diligence of others.”*

2 Cor 8:24

“Therefore show to them, and before the churches, the proof of your love and of our boasting on your behalf.”

D) It is an indicator of where your affections are – if your affections are not right – note

what God says

not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.

E)Not grudgingly – Not resistant – or of necessity – there is a need – I must respond – Duty

1)Don't want to but – it is necessary – No it isn't – God never needs us

God is looking for Cheerful givers KJV Hilariously - What that isn't – Not Deliriously

A)What it is – Great Gratitude! Thank you so much saved me – my Church – {privilege

8 And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work.

9 As it is written:

"He has dispersed abroad,

He has given to the poor;

His righteousness endures forever."

B)Here is what we need to remember: As we give, {Tithe, Time etc God will reward our giving.

C)Just as **God is able** to make the sowing of seed **abound** to a great harvest, so too **God is able** to bless our giving.

D)You can't out give God – He doesn't hold anything back –

Jesus taught that even the smallest gift, if given with the right heart, would not go unrewarded. “And whoever gives one of these little ones only a cup of cold water in the name of a disciple, assuredly, I say to you, he shall by no means lose his reward.” (Matthew 10:42)

E)Abound for every good work – He is going to by His grace sustain us

1) **Testimony** “I don't know how it happens but every month our bills get paid.” -

10 Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, {God is the one who supplies what we have} ...supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness,

A)Paul is still looking at giving as seed sown – it is not hoarded – you get seed not to hoard but to use

B)Seed is meant to go into the ground{ What we have been given is meant to be used – Tool!

What is the Fruit?

11 while you are enriched in everything for all liberality, which causes thanksgiving through us to God.

12 For the administration of this service {**The opportunity to give**} not only supplies the needs of the saints, but also is abounding through many thanksgivings to God, 13 while, through the proof of **this ministry**, they glorify God for the obedience of your confession to the gospel of Christ, and for your liberal sharing with them and all men, 14 and by their prayer for you, who long for you because of the exceeding grace of God in you.

**Here is what happens when you give from the right heart: You are blessed or enriched –
Others are helped
God is Glorified**

The Jewish Church in Jerusalem will Praise God for the financial gift of the Gentiles –

15 Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!