

The Example of the Macedonian Churches – Excel in the Grace of Giving 2 Cor 8:1-9 22 Nov 2020 Small Group Notes

The sermon opened talking about different places that we have influence including our work, how we spend our time, our interactions and relationships with others, and how we spend our money.

- Is there anything you would add to this list?
- Which of these do you feel strongly about and why?

Sometimes you only know how good or bad something is by comparison.

- Can you think of a time when comparison made something much better or worse than you would have initially thought?

Read 2 Cor 8:1-2

- What examples of comparison can you see in this text?

Notice, in verse 1, that God is at work by his grace. God's grace is not just about forgiveness, it also refers to how God enables us to do what we can't do on our own.

- What examples of God's grace can you see in the example of the Macedonian churches?
- Have you ever experienced joy among severe trial? How did it happen?
- Have you ever seen generosity among extreme poverty?

3 things they had that might challenge us about their example

1 - They were an example of sacrificial generosity.

Read 2 Cor 8:3

- Where have you seen sacrificial generosity? What was the motivation behind it?

2 - They saw giving as a privilege.

Read 2 Cor 8:4

- How do you go from seeing giving as a duty, to seeing it as a privilege?

(Well done to those that gave food already on Sunday for the Combe Down Primary School Food Bank. The amount of food that has already come in was staggering!)

3 - Their giving was in response to God.

Read 2 Cor 8:5

- How is what we find, here in verse 5, significant?

Imagine for moment that you are sitting with someone who finds this area really difficult.

- What might you ask or say that could help with what they are feeling?
- What practical advice might you give to someone that is trying to become more generous?