
Follow the Money

10/8 - 10/14/23

S.O.A.P. :

We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, ² for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. ³ For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, ⁴ begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints— ⁵ and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us. ⁶ Accordingly, we urged Titus that as he had started, so he should complete among you this act of grace. ⁷ But as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you—see that you excel in this act of grace also.
2 Corinthians 8:1-8

And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶ And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts,
Acts 2:45-46

There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold ³⁵ and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.
Acts 4:32-35, ESV

1. How have you seen the generosity of God in your life? (Not limited to financial) How does His generosity impact your generosity?
2. If God is a God of abundance, how can we posture our hearts in order to give without reluctance or compulsion? (2 Corinthians 9:6-15)
3. The churches of Macedonia Paul is speaking about in 2 Corinthians 8 were in affliction and "extreme poverty" (verse 2), yet they "begged" for the privilege of being generous for the benefit of others. Have you ever witnessed or experienced this type of generosity?
4. How do you see the generosity of the Church today model that of the early Church? As a member of the Body of Christ, His Church, how can you personally model the generosity of the Early Church?

