



**Loving Jesus, Loving People, Plowing a Counter-Culture**

**SERMON TEXT:** 2 Corinthians 8:1-15

**MAIN POINT:** We, as Christians, should model the generosity of Christ.

**GETTING STARTED:**

**[1]** Why do you think it can be so difficult for us at times to talk about money in our culture?

**[2]** What are some ways that money can cause harm, either to an individual or to others?

**[3]** Why do you think money can so easily become an idol to us in our culture?

**UNDERSTANDING: 2 Corinthians 8:1-15**

**[1]** What are some things that stand out to you in this passage about the Macedonian church’s understanding of generosity?

**[2]** Why do you think it is significant that they gave both “according to” and “beyond” their means in verse 3?

**[3]** How should this example of generosity encourage us in our own participation of the Gospel?

**[4]** What does this passage teach us about the generosity that God shows us? How should we walk in response as His people?

**[5]** What does our generosity (or lack thereof) reveal to others about the Gospel of Christ?

**[6]** In what way does a proper understanding of the Gospel actually free us from the love of money?

**[7]** What are some real, practical fears or struggles that might someone from giving faithfully?

**[8]** How do we measure our generosity, or how do we know if we are being faithful in our giving?

**[9]** Name a time in your life where someone was generous to you. How were they generous? How can you be that to someone in your life this week?

**[10]** What are one or two items that you could remove from your life, this month, in order to more faithfully steward what God has entrusted to you?

**GOING DEEPER:**

**Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-15.**

- What personal fears do you have regarding generosity?
- What step of growth could you personally take regarding generosity this week?

**Memorize 2 Corinthians 8:9.**

**Read Acts 2:42-47.**

- What was the result of the early church’s generosity?

**For Parents:**

- Help your children memorize and understand 2 Corinthians 8:9

**PLOWS Challenge:** *We believe that discipleship is life-long, ongoing and organic. Much of discipleship is based on developing the ongoing habits of a disciple of Christ. Here at Emergence, we aim to commit ourselves to the following disciplines in our walk toward Christ:*

- P** – Praying daily for Gospel opportunity
- L** – Listening to the Word of God
- O** – Openness toward others
- W** – Works of Love
- S** – Sharing your story