

How money Can Make You Happy

Part 3: Plan On It

2 Corinthians 8 and 9

WE: Want to know how much I make? Stick around...

On an unrelated note... Wouldn't it be awesome to be able to pay for hospitals, schools, foster families, etc?

Hear about a family in need, a mother who needs diapers, a kid who needs clothes and school supplies... and be like... here you go.

Why does that excite us?

B/c we know... **The value of our lives isn't measured by how much we have but how much we give.**

Though we agree and want to experience that life... many of us don't actually take the steps to be truly generous.

Why? B/c...we wait for the "someday" we might have more.

But being generous doesn't happen by accident someday...

We at CCC want your life to have value... so going to ask you to make a plan to give your money away...

Not going to try to bait and switch you... my goal is to inspire you to create a plan to specifically give to a work that many of us have devoted our lives to...

Inviting our neighbors to discover, enjoy, and share the life Jesus offers... together... as Crosscreek Community Church.

Whether call self JF or not discover... **Money makes you happy when you have a committed plan to give it away.**

To convince you that this is a good idea I want to piggy-back on an ancient fundraising letter...

GOD: Paul. 2 Cor. 56 AD

Longer than we have time for here.. So I pick out the highlights but go read for self...

Summarize Situation

JF's in Jerusalem suffering from famine. Other churches hear about and want to help.

Church in Corinth (wealthy) eager to help... had big plans but hadn't actually given all promised yet...

Their eagerness was an example that inspired other/poorer churches to give as much as they could.

Now Paul's sending Titus to collect the money from the Corinthians... "so get ready..."

Paul's literally saying, "You said you loved the Jerusalem church and want to help... it's time to prove it like the other churches have. Put your money where your mouth is."

He's touching on a theme that we see a lot in Jesus' teachings and NT writings...

How we actually use our money proves what we actually value.

The Corinthians started with great intentions/excitement/great feelings of support and love for Jer JF's...

They realized their money wasn't just to be spent on what they wanted but that it could do some real good to help others in need...

Paul says now it's time to prove their love by following through generously.

And then he reminds them why generosity is so important... something we've been saying in this series...

V. 8:9

JF's role to show world Jesus love/care...

God loves to give. And he's given the ultimate gift to humanity... himself.

Became poor middle eastern 1st century peasant and died a humiliating death to GIVE us forgiveness and eternal life.

Part of sharing the story of how generously God gave is by being generous with what he has given us... we are object lesson.

Our generosity can be a picture of God's generosity through Jesus.

So Paul encourages Corinthians to finish what started

And answers a question you might have started asking... What exactly is generous?

(8:11-14)

Generosity is determined by our attitude.

It's not generous and it doesn't show God's love if we give begrudgingly.

Say I gave you \$1000. But when I did I said, "Here. I have to do this bc God says so."

And then I kept bringing up how much I gave you and what I could've done with the money if I hadn't and then acted like you kinda owe me b/c I gave you the money.

"Remember that \$1000 I gave you? I need a ride to the airport / help moving"

Would you consider that gift generous? Would that gift give people a picture of how God gave to us through Jesus? Probably wish I'd never given it to you in the first place right?

Later Paul Says- "For God loves a person who gives cheerfully."

Cheerful- "Thank you for this opportunity to give / to use what's been given me to show God's love, You don't need to mention it again. Besides, it's not my money, it's God's. So thank him."

See the difference?

Also...

Generosity is determined by how much it costs us personally... It's relative. it looks different for everyone

Paul says... "Give in portion to what you have." It's not generous for a billionaire to give away \$10,000.

But it is generous for someone on a fixed income of say \$3000 a month to give \$150.

[Cut away of liz and monica]

Sandwich

- "Ugh here's a piece of crust"
- "Sure here's half"

It's not really generous if it doesn't really cost you anything.

Being generous means purposely giving so much that it affects your lifestyle/daily choices.

- Widow and Jesus
-

Makes sense right, but...

HOW do we actually do it?

Paul tells Cors hes sending Titus and some others to pick up the donations then says...

9:6-7 "Decide in your hearts..."

We want to be generous people, most of us aren't really selfish jerks... but we don't actually get around to it b/c we don't have a plan.

Generosity is the result of planning

The best way to give eagerly and in portion to what you have is by planning for it.

Harder to give when you weren't planning on it and now it just hits you.

But if you plan your finances with giving in the forefront it makes it so much easier.

Best way to plan? From experience- Pick a percentage of your regular income that you will give away first.

Why first... b/c if you just give whatever is left there is rarely much left.

Give / Save / Live

Sounds scary right? What if you give it away first but then need it later?

Interesting thing...

9:8 and 10-Needs taken care of- **Generosity creates trust.**

Something else we see throughout Jesus teachings and NT writings... when we are generous God gives us more in order to be more generous.

Never regretted giving.

God is generous to us so we can be generous to others

Allows us to trust him.

V. 12 Result- People are taken care of ... People see Gods love and care through our generosity.

Generosity now makes a difference forever.

YOU:

And that's where we fit in this story...

Crosscreek exists to invite our neighbors to discover, enjoy, and share the life Jesus offers... together.

We believe this is God's purpose for us as a group of JF's... believe it's something that can change many forevers.

We are trying to carry out this purpose not by creating a really large organization with high overhead but by Creating a community... not really anything like it.

- Belong before believe
- Where can know and be known
- Disagree and still be in the same family
- Committed to being for our neighbors before they are ever for us
- Not held together by shared rules but by a shared love for Jesus and each other.

But even though this is different... it doesn't happen without your generosity.

I want to pull back the curtain and show you what it looks like financially to continue to be this kind of community...

Crosscreek's avg. monthly income from Jan 2021-Sept 2021 was **\$8,119.37**.

Blows me away. That is a lot of generosity!

This avg. represents about 20 regular givers- including some of whom have only physically been with us a couple times or never.

It also includes regular gifts from another church (from another state) that simply wanted to support what Jesus is doing in Salem.

THANK YOU.

We've been able to give a little over 10% of that (Avg. **\$985.97**) to other organizations both locally, nationally and globally.

A few things you've made possible...

People being trained to share love of Jesus

Foster kids and families receiving support

Show Women in the adult entertainment industry that they are loved and cherished.

Kids in China being given education and shown Jesus' love

BUT... Our Annual Budget about **\$10,000**

Our Avg. monthly donations haven't kept up with what it costs to keep things going...

Avg Exp... **\$9,522.15** Difference of **-\$1402.78**

"Well where's all that money go?"

Payroll **\$6,500** for 1.5 employees [point to myself... monica pops in and waves]

- Are you doing the math? M- is way overpaid right?
- Kidding... way underpaid... works full time
- Decided at beginning that this was going to be my full-time job... to focus on this mission God has given us

The rest goes to

General Ministry (Gatherings, Music, Kids, Youth, Training, Etc.) [\$807.95]

Rent [\$500]

Taxes and Fees [\$229.04]

Insurance [\$133.33]

Technical needs [\$242]

Office Supplies and Phone [\$51.82]

Advertising [\$78.88]

Planning Center [\$48]

Plus savings and any gifts/charity.

Regular things that nonprofits have to spend money on to get the job done.

What's awesome is that just when account gets scary low... someone brings an unexpected gift... Jesus saying- I've got you.

And though we constantly remind ourselves to focus on what we CAN do and not what we CANT do... there is still so much we desire to do...

Much more we all could do together if we all purposely chose to be generous.

- Own space used throughout week for community- studio space
- Support more people/nonprofits in need
- Hire community liaison / kids ministry

So I think a realistic goal to start making some of these things happen we would need about **\$13,000 - \$15,000** a month.

Increasing our current monthly avg by **\$3500 - \$5500**.

That's a lot. And I'm not asking someone out there to finance all of this... BUT we can do it together. Pool our generosity and make a difference.

So my question for you if consider yourself part of community/family is... **What percentage of our collective mission can your percentage make possible?**

Look at finances

Talk to spouse... if applicable

Pray- God thank you for what you've given me. What do you want me to do with it?

Then write down a plan.

Online automatic / first of month- If you don't plan for it it probably wont happen.

CCC not your jam? List in show notes of other places you can support. Want you to experience happiness of a generous life.

WE:

If our heart is for others our money will prove it. If our heart is for ourselves our money will prove it.

Money makes us happy when we purposely use it to make other peoples lives better.

Money will make you happy when you purposely stick to a plan of giving it away.

How we use our money now makes a difference forever.

Money makes us happy when we purposely use it for something bigger than ourselves.

Questions:


1. How have you seen God working in the last week?
2. If you had a billion dollars, what are some way you would love to use it to help others?
3. What is one thing that stood out to or challenged you in this series?
4. Read Matthew 6:21. In your own words, what do you think Jesus was getting at here? Have you ever experienced this dynamic in your life?
5. How can your group pray for you this week?

Summary:

We would all love to be generous and be able to help others in need. So why don't we? Because we don't plan for it. Intentions are great but true generosity requires planning.

Episode Breakdown:

- 00:20 We did it! Part 3!
- 01:50 What a tease.
- 02:34 It takes a little planning
- 07:00 Our generosity
- 9:45 What's it gonna cost me?
- 11:50 Why we don't get around to it...
- 14:40 We get something out of it...
- 16:30 Unique; behind the scenes view
- 19:39 Where does it all go?!?!?
- 21:30 Dreaming together
- 22:50 Who?
- 25:05 Final things
- 29:00 Qs and Bloops

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- ▶ Notes & Questions: https://www.yourcrosscreek.com/media/2021-11-14_cg.pdf
- ▶ Transcript: <https://www.yourcrosscreek.com/media/2021-11-14.pdf>

▶ **Nonprofits** to Support: <https://www.yourcrosscreek.com/donate>

▶ Upcoming #SalemOregon On-Site Gatherings

November 14th & 28th, 4:30pm ... <https://www.yourcrosscreek.com/gathering/> for more info.

▶ #forSalem NOVEMBER Opportunity: Giving Tree

1. Take a tag at our in-person gathering and buy a Christmas present for a CASA kid
2. Can't come in person? Connect with CASA and see how you can help. They do take online donations and have an amazon wishlist! <https://www.casamarionor.org/donate>

► **Suggested Bible Readings:**

Matthew 6:21

Luke 6:38

Luke 21:1-4

James 2:15-16

► Music we listened to making this episode:

Lindsey Stirling- The Arena: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4MCjU-Du3eI>

Only Murders in the Building: Mabel & Tim <https://youtu.be/nhbavMxSGZ0>

Cake- I Will Survive: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f9rCUQjmkxU>

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