

A close-up photograph of a person's hands holding a single, bright green apple. The hands are positioned in the lower half of the frame, with the fingers gently cupping the apple. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green, suggesting a natural setting. The overall mood is one of care and offering.

WEEK 6 | *2 CORINTHIANS 8-9*

GOSPEL GENEROSITY

Generosity is a beautiful thing to both give and receive, but can be difficult both to give and receive! Reaching for the hip pocket to give generously is a painful stretch, and putting a hand out to receive generosity can be a blow to the ego. But generosity is both central to, and a key fruit of, the gospel.

Share a time when you've been the recipient of great generosity.

THE PROBLEM THE GOSPEL ADDRESSES

Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-7

1. What 'grace' did God give the Macedonian churches?

2. Why do you think Paul told the Corinthians about this?

Read 2 Corinthians 8:10-15

3. What is the temptation for the Corinthians?

It can be easy to talk about being generous or giving aid and then forget to do anything about it! When it comes to the final act, parting with our time, energy and money is hard!

THE SOLUTION THE GOSPEL OFFERS

Read 2 Corinthians 8:8-9

4. What did Jesus give up and why?

5. What is it about the King dying for his subject's sin that makes it a truly generous act?

6. What affect do you think meditating on God's generosity to you in Jesus would have on your heart?

THE DIFFERENCE THE GOSPEL MAKES

Read 2 Corinthians 9:7-15

7. Does generosity seem to be a heart matter or a financial matter in this passage?
8. How would you like to follow the model Paul outlines here in your response to Jesus' generosity to you?
9. What is the harvest that we can expect to reap from generosity?
10. When God's people are generous, what results do you notice?

When God's people take to heart their King's generous offer - offering his life in their place on the cross - it results in cheerfully generous people. Both generous financially and overflowing in good deeds. And this results in glory being given to the generous King who started the process.