

Readings

Scripture

¹The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein...

- Psalm 24:1 (*English Standard Version*)

⁹For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.

- 2 Corinthians 8:9 (*English Standard Version*)

Reflection

"The life of Jesus Christ creates unique communities of disciples rooted in grace that worship their risen Lord and find themselves compelled to give that life away."

"A disciple is someone who gets the life of Christ, experiences the life of Christ with others, and obeys Jesus' command to give the life away."

"Christian stewardship is the free and joyous activity of the child of God and God's family, the church, in managing all of life and life's resources for God's purposes."

- A Statement on Stewardship, The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, 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. For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints—and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us. Accordingly, we urged Titus that as he had started, so he should complete among you this act of grace. 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.

I say this not as a command, but to prove by the earnestness of others that your love also is genuine. For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.

- 2 Corinthians 8:1-9 (*English Standard Version*)

Sermon Outline

How Does God View Money?

Psalm 24:1; 2 Corinthians 8:9

Rooted Experience

Brad Anderson

Do you know the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ? (Psalm 24:1; 2 Corinthians 8:9)

What is the story of grace?

Jesus was rich beyond all splendor... (Psalm 24:1; 2 Corinthians 8:9)

For the sake of love, became the poorest of poor... (Psalm 24:1; 2 Corinthians 8:9)

Jesus did so, that through his poverty you might become rich...

(Psalm 24:1; 2 Corinthians 8:9; Genesis 15:1)

Reflection Questions (excerpted from the *Rooted Experience*, used with permission)

- Why is money a hard topic to discuss in general and in the church specifically?
- Read 2 Corinthians 8-9. What principles do you observe about the grace of giving?
- List at least five areas of life God has entrusted to your care which need attention. With the help of the Holy Spirit how do you hope to improve and make a change in your stewardship? How does stewardship affect your faith life?
- Where have you experienced money to be a curse in your life, and when have you recognized it as a blessing?
- How has your heart story changed over the years in regard to where your treasure lies?
- Do you find that you're giving out of response to God's grace, or has your giving become legalistic or a chore?
- If you have debt, do you have the feeling of being enslaved by it? What are some of the ways you are or will start to reduce it?
- How does Christ paying the debt of your sin on the cross affect the way you view debt?