

# appnotes

## DAY 1 READ 2 CORINTHIANS 8:1-9

1

People are always asking for our money. A dollar donation at a checkout, a call to give for the disadvantaged during the holidays, or a heart-wrenching commercial about children in the third-world. But when was the last time you asked for an opportunity to give your money? Sounds crazy, right? But in today's reading, we find a group of people who were dirt poor, pleading with Paul for the privilege of giving relief to other needy Christians! What would make someone give even out of their poverty? One thing: the profound realization that Jesus gave it all for them. "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 through His poverty might become rich." We give because He gave.

## DAY 2 READ 2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-11

2

Do you love to give? God loves it when we delight in giving! And God loves to be even more generous with the generous! He pours out blessings in astonishing ways on the willing and lavish giver. He multiplies our seeds of generosity, helping us to do more than needs to be done and allowing us to give with reckless abandon. Give and watch the multiplication process begin. Your blessings will never run out, you will reap a heap of righteousness, and someone will offer praise and thanks to God because of your generosity. You have nothing to lose when you give. Just get ready for an abundant harvest. Don't wait until next season to start. Jump in today by sharing what you have, setting up online giving, or supplying for the need of a stranger.

## DAY 3 READ LUKE 21:1-4

3

Have you ever witnessed an act of generosity that melted your heart? Jesus did. One day, He watched a poor widow give her last two coins. He used the moment to teach us an important truth: from God's perspective, generosity is not a matter of amount, it is a matter of percentage. The rich people gave what they would not miss, but the widow gave extravagantly, offering all she had to live on. The percentage she gave the Lord? 100%. Jesus' piercing observation causes us to ask ourselves: do I give out of my "extra" or my excitement over advancing God's work in the world? What we give isn't about how much we put in as much as about how much we hold back. God doesn't want us to give out of compulsion but out of adoration.

## DAY READ PHILIPPIANS 4:10-20

4

Would you be proud to find out that your child chose to eat with outsiders at lunch? What makes a parent happier than when a child does what is right when they are not around? In today's reading, the Apostle Paul is overflowing with joy because of the actions of the church at Philippi. The apostle Paul traveled the known world with the good news of Jesus, enduring ship wreck, stoning, and persecution, but "not one church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you only," he told the Philippians. They sent Paul gifts and came alongside him in his troubles. Your giving, said Paul, is much more than a gift. It is a sweet fragrance that pleases God. Having open hands makes God's heart proud.

## DAY READ PROVERBS 21:20

5

You're rich! But you don't feel like it, do you? Americans are some of the richest people in the history of the world. But we pick a moving target when it comes to defining what it means to be "rich." Ironically, we peg "rich" as "making about twice as much as I currently make." Which changes as our income changes, always staying at double our currently salary. Funny, huh? But here's the thing, we don't feel rich because we don't have margin in our finances. The secret to feeling rich is found in Proverbs 21:20, "The wise store up choice food and olive oil, but fools gulp theirs down." You'll never have resources to draw on when you need to (or want to) if you spend everything you make. The solution? Make saving a non-negotiable. The next time the surprise bill comes up, you'll feel rich as you cut a check and move on.

AppNotes are available on our Facebook page, Monday-Friday.

**[facebook.com/parkerhill.org](https://facebook.com/parkerhill.org)**