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Devotion for August 30, 2021

2nd Corinthians 8:1-24

Today's reading comes from 2nd Corinthians 8:1-24. In these verses we hear about generosity. That word alone can sound like a loaded gun, can make us stop in our tracks and wonder what someone wants from us.

Why is this, though? Why would we balk at someone bringing up generosity? Is it because this immediately draws our mind to money? Or perhaps that someone is going to ask us to do something we may not want to?

Truly, there may have been times in our lives where the concept of generosity has not been attached to positive experiences. However, as Christians, we are blessed to have a wonderful example of generosity that can fuel us to be generous with each other in love.

Verse nine of our passage says, *"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."* Jesus generously gave up everything in heaven, and then even gave up His earthly life for us. From this we can see how we might love each other and care for each other with whatever we are given.

To be generous does not always mean to give financially. Verses two through four speak to this fact: despite poverty, care for others can be given. Time and talents, things like sitting with someone who is ill or working in the home of someone who is weak are all valuable ways to be generous.

And most of all, we are blessed to be able to give generously out of our freedom. St. Paul encourages with these words: *"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."*

*God's blessings,
Marissa Kroenke, Deaconess Intern
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