

2 Corinthians 8:1-9, 13-15

Read: 2 Corinthians 8:1-9, 13-15

1. The question of fairness. What does it mean to be fair? Is it the same as treating everybody equally?
2. How does the Bible talk about fairness when it comes to generosity?
3. Leviticus 27 ³⁰ “Every tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the trees, is the LORD's; it is holy to the LORD. ³¹ If a man wishes to redeem some of his tithe, he shall add a fifth to it. ³² And every tithe of herds and flocks, every tenth animal of all that pass under the herdsman's staff, shall be holy to the LORD. ³³ One shall not differentiate between good or bad, neither shall he make a substitute for it; and if he does substitute for it, then both it and the substitute shall be holy; it shall not be redeemed.” This is the origin of the tithe.
4. Why do we bring this up when talking about 2 Corinthians 8? How does Paul broach this topic with the Corinthian church?
5. What is the purpose of the offering that Paul is requesting? How is it different than the tithe and why is generosity the key to understanding Paul's request?
6. How does Paul understand his request? If it is not a command, what is the nature of his request? How does giving a tithe and then continuing to give out of generosity prove of God's love?
7. What is so moving about the Macedonians “begging” to be able to participate in the collection?
8. How much, then, is one expected to give in order to be generous?
9. How does this relate to our understanding of stewardship? Is tithing or generosity optional for the Christian?
10. We end with a quotation of Exodus 16:18 and a reference back to the Israelites receiving manna.