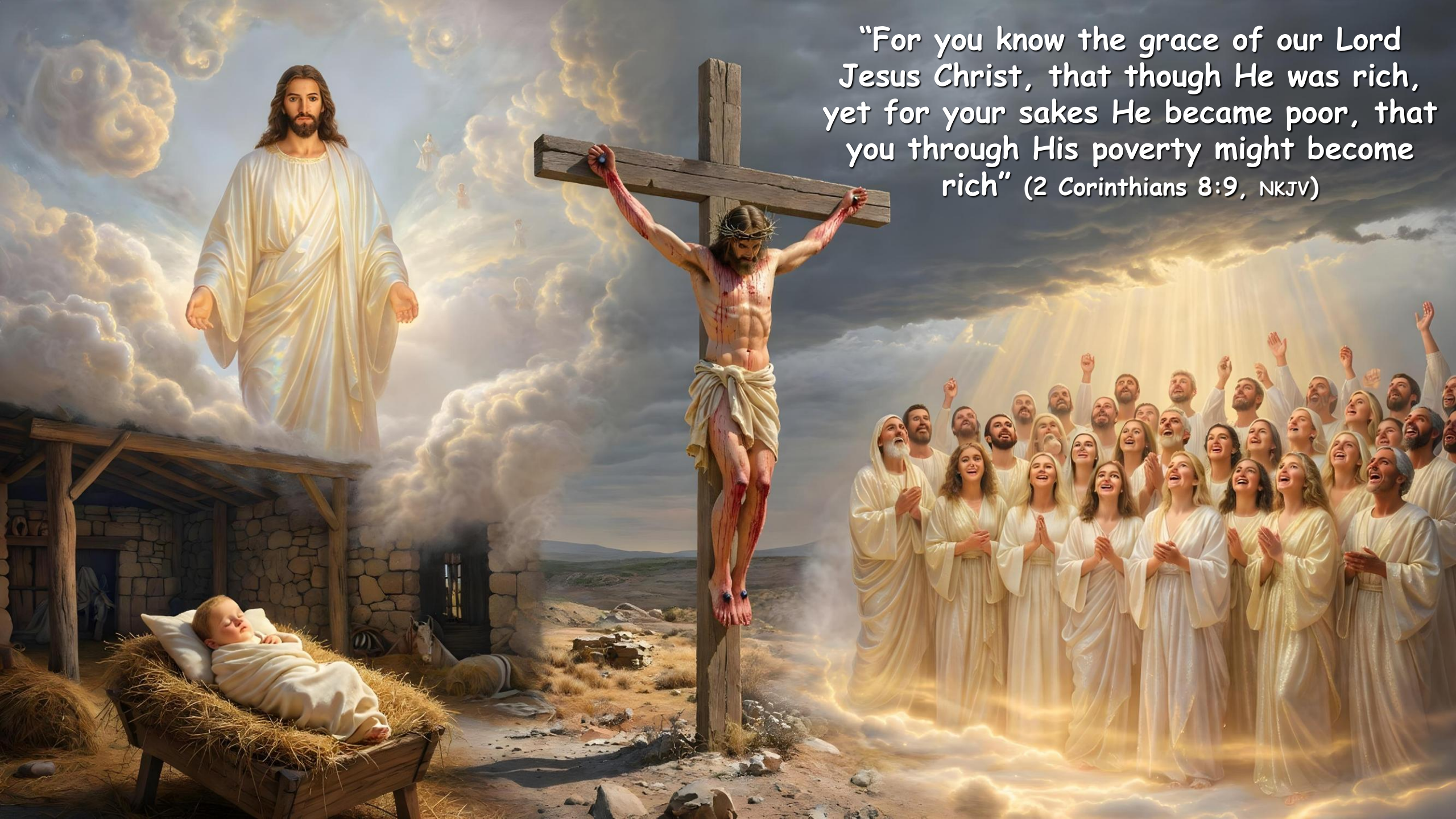


STEWARDSHIP AND MISSION



Lesson 11 for
September 12, 2026

"For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich" (2 Corinthians 8:9, NKJV)



Stewardship is the way in which a person manages what has been placed in their care.

In the context of Paul's second letter to the Corinthians, stewardship refers to a specific project of the apostle: that the Gentile churches collect money to help the church in Jerusalem, which was going through very difficult times.

The Corinthians had already committed to helping, and the time was approaching when that commitment should be put into action. The churches of Macedonia had already begun to participate. Paul wasn't interested in the amount of money involved, but rather in the motivation and enthusiasm with which the believers would participate in this opportunity to respond to the grace they had received.



Origin of stewardship:

- **The example of Jesus**
- **The response to the grace received**



How to practice stewardship:

- **Proper planning**
- **A correct attitude**



Stewardship results:

- **The unity of the church**





ORIGIN OF STEWARDSHIP

THE EXAMPLE OF JESUS

**"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."
(2 Corinthians 8:9)**

What is the relationship between God's grace and generosity? (2 Cor. 8:1-2)

God gave his grace to the churches of Macedonia, and they "welled up in rich generosity" (2 Corinthians 8:2 NIV). And this is the grace of Jesus for them, and for us:



And He did it all out of love for us! (John 15:13; Ephesians 5:2; Galatians 2:20 ; 1 John 3:16).

How will we respond to the grace of Jesus? "Freely you have received, freely give" (Mt. 10:8).

**Though he was rich, he became poor
(2 Corinthians 8:9)**



He left Heaven to live on Earth



He stopped ruling the Universe to become a carpenter



He left a safe place to live in enemy territory



He exchanged the royal crown for a crown of thorns



THE RESPONSE TO THE GRACE RECEIVED

"And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us" (2 Corinthians 8:5)

Observe the Macedonians' response to grace:



They received the grace of Jesus (2 Cor. 8:9)

They gave themselves to Jesus (2 Cor. 8:5)



They begged for the privilege of helping others (2 Cor. 8:4)

In their poverty, they gave beyond their ability (2 Cor. 8:2-3)

What does this teach us?

Gratitude for God's grace (2 Cor. 9:15)

Jesus gave everything for us. Our gratitude is shown in the desire to give ourselves completely to Him.

Desire to share God's blessings (2 Cor. 9:11a)

We give to others because we first received from God

Sincere love (2 Corinthians 8:24)

Generosity is evidence that love dwells in our hearts





HOW TO PRACTICE STEWARDSHIP

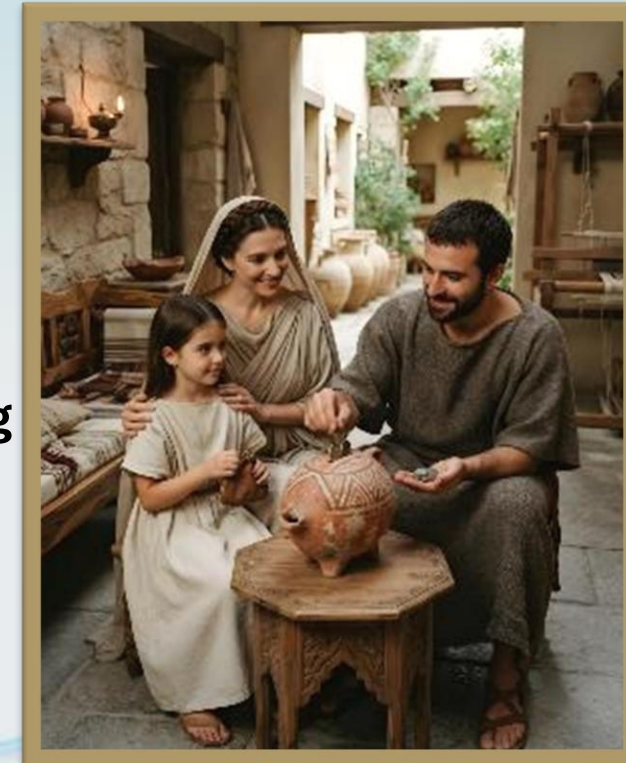
PROPER PLANNING

**"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."
(2 Corinthians 9:7)**

Paul's proposed plan was to collect a special offering from the churches of Macedonia and Achaia (the province where Corinth was located) to help the church in Jerusalem (Rom. 15:26).

When the apostle proposed the plan in Colossae a year earlier, it was received enthusiastically, although no specific goals were set at that time (2 Cor. 9:1-2). However, each member resolved in his heart to donate a specific amount (2 Cor. 9:7a).

When planning the offering, each family should evaluate itself and set realistic goals, in accordance with its financial condition.



Another point Paul includes in his plan is that they shouldn't wait to hand everything over at once, but rather set aside a little each week until they reach the proposed amount (1 Cor. 16:2). This way, when Paul arrives, the entire collection can be joyfully gathered (2 Cor. 9:3-5).

A CORRECT ATTITUDE

*"For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability.
Entirely on their own" (2 Corinthians 8:3)*

To encourage the Colossians' generosity, Paul gives them the example of Macedonia. In those churches, the brothers had shown a proper and exemplary attitude in giving their offerings, for they gave...

with joy
(2 Cor. 8:2a)

They felt happy to be able to give

with generosity
(2 Cor. 8:2b)

Their poverty was not an obstacle

with pleasure
(2 Cor. 8:3)

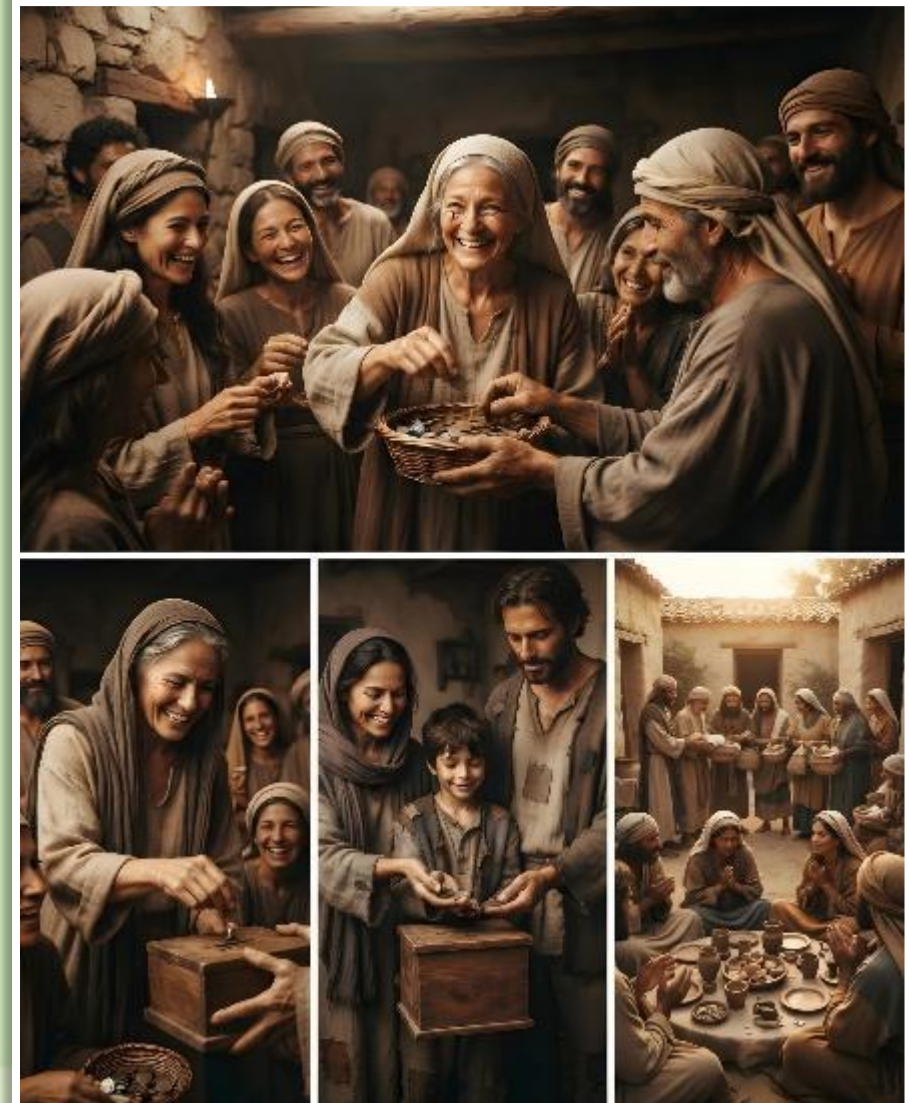
They did it voluntarily and spontaneously

as a privilege
(2 Cor. 8:4)

This act allowed them to show their love for God and the church

as an act of consecration
(2 Cor. 8:5)

His devotion to God resulted in his devotion to others





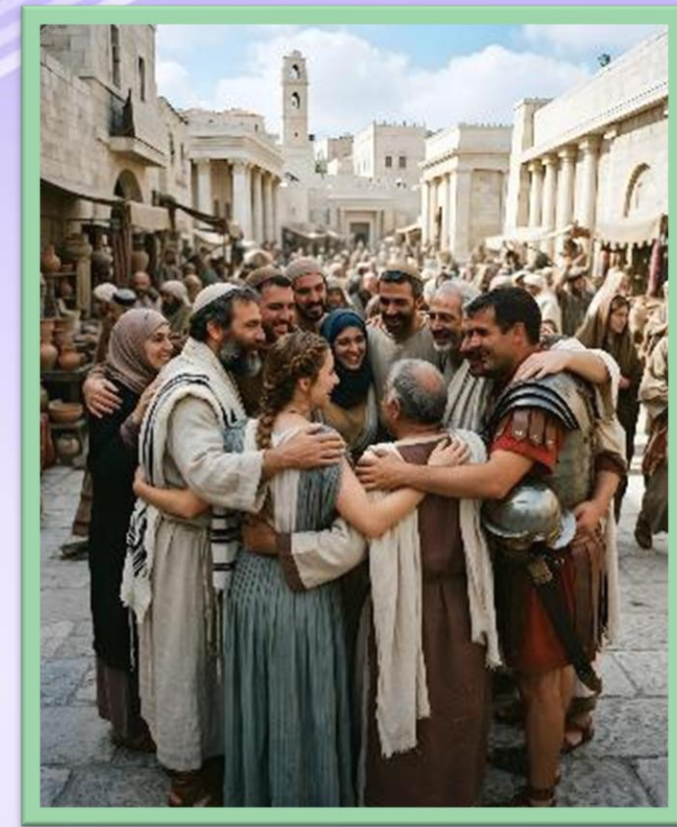
STEWARDSHIP RESULTS

THE UNITY OF THE CHURCH

**"For the administration of this service not only supplies the needs of the saints, but also is abounding through many thanksgivings to God."
(2 Corinthians 9:12)**

The offering that was taken to Jerusalem had other positive effects (2 Cor. 9:12).

Jews and Gentiles were bound together by ties of help and gratitude (Rom. 15:26-27). In this way, the apostle's ultimate goal was achieved: unity in the church.



Local Church

Conference /Mission/ Union

Division

General Association

Another positive effect is that the way the offering was handled has a special lesson for us today: everything must be done in an orderly fashion, and following the correct procedures.

Paul appointed Titus to oversee the collection, and the churches appointed brothers to assist him in this task (2 Cor. 8:16-24). There was no other proper way to collect and send the offering to Jerusalem.

“God’s work must be sustained by tithes and gifts and offerings. The Lord now calls for the means that He has entrusted to His stewards. [...] The Lord Jesus requires nothing more from His followers than He Himself has performed. Those who practice self-denial and self-sacrifice for the cause of God are but following His example. He laid off His royal robe and kingly crown, and stepped down from His high command. He became poor, that through His poverty we might come into possession of the eternal treasures. He gave not only His riches, but His own life in self-denial and self-sacrifice, that He might remove every hindrance from those who seek an entrance into the kingdom of God. [...] The Lord Jesus invites us to become laborers together with Him. He is the owner of and has claims upon all that we possess. By our willingness to help in His work, we may now show our love for Him.”