

## Sermon Notes / 2 Corinthians 8-9

1. Giving as an Opportunity
2. Giving as a Remedy

**Big Idea: Giving is Living!**

### **2 Corinthians 8:1-4**

“... for in a severe test of affliction their abundance of joy ...overflowed in a wealth of generosity ...they gave ... beyond their means, ... begging ... for the favor of taking part.”

### **#1- God Owns it All!**

#### **2 Corinthians 9:10**

“He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness.”

#### **2 Corinthians 8:9**

“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 8:5**

“and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us.”

### **#2 God Supplies with a Purpose**

#### **2 Corinthians 9:10**

“He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness.”

#### **A. “Bread”!**

TIME MAGAZINE:	The Tragic Stories of the Lottery’s Unluckiest Winners
NEW YORK TIMES:	The Bad Luck of Winning
THE ATLANTIC:	A Treasury of Terribly Sad Stories of Lotto Winners

**W.H. Vanderbilt-** “The care of \$200 million is enough to kill anyone. There is no pleasure in it.”

**John D. Rockefeller-** “I have made many millions, but they have brought me no happiness.”

## Study Guide / 2 Corinthians 8-9

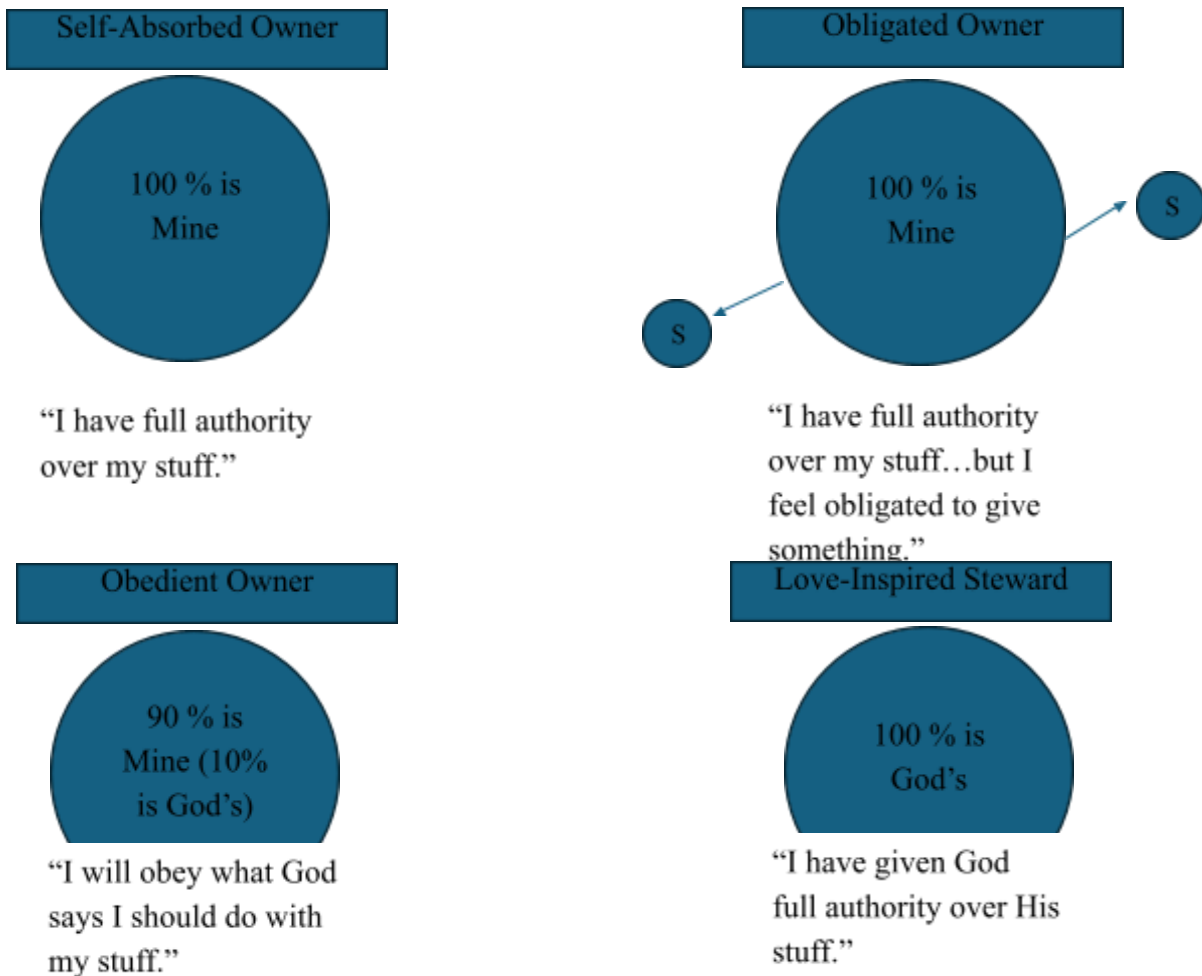
### Big Idea: Giving is Living

1. **Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-4.** Notice that the Macedonian Christians were giving abundantly out of a place of poverty and affliction. They were 'begging' for the favor of taking part. Share examples of why it is "more blessed to give than to receive." (Acts 20:35). How does God change our hearts to become that way (see 2 Cor. 8:9)?

2. **Read 2 Corinthians 9:10.**

*"He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness."*

Discuss the following four examples of how we view our things. Share examples in your life of how God has supplied for your needs and moved you from being a self-absorbed owner to being a love-inspired steward.



3. **Read 2 Corinthians 9:10 again.**

*“He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness.”*

Notice that God supplies “seed” and “bread”. How does that change the way you view your resources?

**4. Read 2 Corinthians 9:10 again.**

*“He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness.”*

Discuss the concept that God will “multiply” your seed and “increase” your harvest. What does that mean to you? How will God do that?

5. According to **Luke 12:33** we are to store up “treasures in heaven” where a thief can’t approach or a moth can’t destroy. What does that look like for you? How aware are you of your investment account in heaven? How motivated are you to keep investing there? Discuss.

**Application**

Take a few minutes to pray quietly and ask the Lord to help you understand what it means to be a generous Jesus-follower. Consider becoming more open-handed and experimenting with generosity.