

COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION - 3.19-20.13

“JESUS GIVES THROUGH HIS CHURCH” - EKKLESIA



SCRIPTURE

2 CORINTHIANS 8:9-15 & 21 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. 10 And in this matter I give my judgment: this benefits you, who a year ago started not only to do this work but also to desire to do it. 11 So now finish doing it as well, so that your readiness in desiring it may be matched by your completing it out of what you have. 12 For if the readiness is there, it is acceptable according to what a person has, not according to what he does not have. 13 For I do not mean that others should be eased and you burdened, but that as a matter of fairness 14 your abundance at the present time should supply their need, so that their abundance may supply your need, that there may be fairness. 15 As it is written, *“Whoever gathered much had nothing left over, and whoever gathered little had no lack.”* ... 21 for we aim at what is honorable not only in the Lord's sight but also in the sight of man.

2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-9 The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. 7 Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 8 And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.

9 As it is written,

“He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor;
his righteousness endures forever.”

BIG IDEA

Jesus is the most generous giver ever: he was rich but became poor for us. Jesus sacrificed himself in our place to pay our debt to God. Everything we enjoy is a gift from him; we give because he's given. Christians shouldn't give as an investment, out of greed, fear, or self-righteousness, or to pay Jesus back. Christians should give-motivated by the free grace of Jesus- to love others like they have been loved, and reveal to other's the great generosity that has been given to them in Christ. It doesn't matter if you're rich or poor—are you generous? Generosity is measured by sacrifice, not the amount or percentage. It's not a question of rich or poor, but righteous or unrighteous stewardship. Finally, Christians give for other's good, their own joy, and Jesus' fame.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Q.1 Was there anything from *Sunday's Sermon* or the *Big Idea* that was new to you or had an affect on you? Did you hear anything that raised more questions in your mind?

Q.2 What stands out to you in **2 Corinthians 8:9-15 & 21** and why?

Q.3 In what ways did Jesus become physically poor? What is the significance of Jesus' identifying with us in a physical sense?

Q.4 In what ways did Jesus become spiritually poor? What is the significance of Jesus' becoming spiritually poor?

Q.5 In **2 Corinthians 8:10-15**, Paul teaches that generosity is measure by sacrifice, not by an amount or percentage. What error(s) are there for those, both rich and poor, who think that generosity is measured by an amount instead of by sacrifice?

Q.6 This question should help you understand what you're looking to for joy and hoping in for comfort: what are you willing to sacrifice money, possessions, time, and energy for? *Pray for each other in light of your answers.

Q.7 What stands out to you in **2 Corinthians 9:6-9** and why?

Q.8 Does someone's financial spending or giving reveal what mission their life is on? Explain your answer. Discuss the idea that Paul brings up about "sowing seed" in relation to giving. What kind seed are you sowing- temporal or eternal; a un-sacrificial amount or a generous amount?

GOOD WORD

"He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever" (Psalm 112:9). Jesus is the most generous and the most joyful One in the whole universe. Let's be like Jesus in our generosity. All fame be to Jesus! Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GOOD FRIDAY CELEBRATION: FRIDAY, MARCH 29TH

On Friday, March 29th, Ekklesia will be hosting a "Good Friday Celebration" at 7pm at the Ekklesia Building. Good Friday is the day that Christians remember and celebrate Jesus' death on the cross, in our place, for our sins, to redeem us reconcile us to God. Pastor Brett will be preaching about the truth of the cross of Christ, and will spend time singing and responding in worshipful ways. The worship time will be 7pm-8:30pm. Let's invite all types of people from all types of churches (or non-church goers), backgrounds, and viewpoints.

EASTER SUNDAY

Easter Sunday is the most attended church day of the whole year. Let's invite people in and around Muskogee to come and worship at a church that will be preaching the true gospel of Jesus. We will gathering to celebrate this awesome fact- Jesus is alive!

BAPTISM SUNDAY, MARCH 31ST

If you have not been baptized since you truly trusted in Jesus alone for salvation, we encourage you to talk your Community Group leader and let them know you want to submit yourself for baptism. Baptism is all about Jesus! Jesus commands us to believe and be baptized. Sunday, March 31st, we will be having a baptism celebration and want to baptize you. Let us know and we will set it up.

EKKLESIA COVENANT MEMBERSHIP

We have opened up the door for people to become Covenant Members of Ekklesia Muskogee. We invite you to get a copy of the [Ekklesia Membership Covenant](#) and the [Ekklesia Doctrinal Statement](#), read and pray over them, then arrange a meeting with a Pastor to discuss, pray, and sign the Covenant together.