

SERMON STARTERS

“THE GREATEST EXAMPLE OF GIVING”
II Corinthians 8:9

“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.”

The Apostle Paul is writing to correct the slackness in giving by the Corinthian Christians in II Corinthians chapters 8 and 9. He uses two examples of giving to encourage them: The churches in Macedonia, chapter 8:1, and the example of Christ in 8:9.

In no way can we match our Savior’s giving. His self-emptying, sacrificial love is for us the supreme model and motivation for the giving of our sacrifices of self, service and substance. Let us look more closely at the Greatest Giver and try to understand in more depth the gift of Himself.

I. THE DIVINE PLENITUDE OF OUR SAVIOUR.

“..... He was rich”

- A. Consider The Bounty Of His Riches - *the riches of glory.*
- B. Consider The Beauty Of His Riches - *the riches of grace*

II. THE DIVINE POVERTY OF OUR SAVIOUR.

“..... He became poor.....”

- A. His Was A Voluntary Poverty.
- B. His Was A Temporary Poverty.

III. THE DIVINE PURPOSE OF OUR SAVIOUR.

“that you through his poverty might become rich.”

- A. His Purpose Was For Our Enrichment. His poverty provided our pardon.
- B. His Purpose Was For His Empowerment. His poverty provides our power.

In view of the greatest Giver, the greatest Giving and the greatest Gift, let us give, not out of duty, but out of love and devotion. How can we withhold time, talents and treasures from Him who gave so much for us? In eternity we will wish we had given Him more!

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