



2 Corinthians 8:1-15 – Global Generosity

Introduction to Wesley College

Wesley College is a United Methodist related college in Mwanza, Tanzania. Started in 2017 the college now has over 150 students studying theology, community development, business, adult education, and more. You can find out more by visiting www.wesleycollegegetzfoundation.com

Introduction to Global Generosity

Generosity is a major theme in the Bible, especially in the Gospels. Our generosity is supposed to reflect the generosity we find in God. John 3:16 is an easy passage to look towards when we think of God's generosity, but there are many examples in the Gospel about God's generosity. 2 Corinthians 8 looks to take God's generosity and make it present as well in how we relate to each other. As God is universal so should our generosity be.

Presenters:

Rev. Bonface Wanyama is an ordained pastor of the Kenya-Ethiopia Annual Conference and the head of theology at Wesley College. He has been at Wesley College from the very beginning and has been instrumental in moving the college forward to where it is now.

Rev. Eric Soard is an ordained clergy from the Memphis Annual Conference and served over 10 years in Tanzania with the United Methodist Church. He founded Wesley College in 2017 and is living in the US working as executive director of the Wesley College Foundation which mobilizes resources for Wesley College in Tanzania.

Please excuse a few breaks in the video as the internet connection broke up some during the conversation which was done over zoom.

Summary of Scripture: 2 Corinthians 8:1-15

2 Corinthians is thought to actually be the third letter that Paul wrote to the Corinthians, written as a response to on-going correspondence with the church in Corinth. He knew well the people there, how they viewed themselves, and their faith. In a previous letter he had taken aim at their pride in themselves and their faith. It seems that Paul saw generosity in such a way that it was worth playing on some of that pride to encourage them to give. Even in the midst of a little goading though, Paul lays out some basic principals of giving...

- Give joyfully. This was a big part for Paul, that in giving our heart should reflect the heart that God has when he gives to us.
- Give globally. Give to others and be prepared to receive from others, even outside of your community. This was again a demonstration of faith and an understanding of God's economics.
- Give according to what you have. Paul never expected sacrifice to the point of poverty, but he did expect giving in accordance with how one had been blessed. Being generous means giving from an abundance, whatever that abundance means to each person. This is where the joy really comes from.

Questions:

What are the main points of 2 Corinthians 8:1-15?

Are you familiar with the phrase "charity starts at home?" What would Paul have to say about that?

Have you ever participated in anything similar to Harambe? What was joyful or significant about it?

Have you ever been the recipient of generosity?

How are you inspired by Bonface's story of receiving and passing on generosity?

Where do you find joy in giving to others?