



JOIN US AT WPCB!
Sundays 9:30am & 6:30PM
Christmas Day 9:30am



Seeing
at
JESUS
CHRISTMAS



**“He was rich,
yet for your sake
he became poor”**

Readings:

Luke 6:27-36

2 Corinthians 8:1-15

2 Corinthians 9:6-15



1. Christians give to the poor!

2. How do we give to the poor?

1. Christians give to the poor!

^{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.

1. Christians give to the poor!

^{8:3}For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, ⁴begging us earnestly for the favour of taking part in the relief of the saints

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^{9:12}For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God.

At present, however, I am going to Jerusalem bringing aid to the saints. For Macedonia and Achaia have been pleased to make some contribution for the poor among the saints at Jerusalem. *(Romans 15:25-26)*

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By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? *(1 John 3:16-17)*

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Luke 19:8

Acts 2:45

Acts 4:34ff

Ephesians 4:28

etc

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Leviticus 19:9-10

Deuteronomy 14:28-29

etc

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³⁵But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. ³⁶Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.

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“For it is disgraceful that, when no Jew ever has to beg, and the impious Galilaeans support not only their own poor but ours as well, all men see that our people lack aid from us.”

– *Emperor Julian, 362*

2. How do we give to the poor?

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2. How do we give to the poor?

- *3 governing principles*

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- *2 practical guidelines*

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- *3 governing principles*
- *2 practical guidelines*
- *1 specific opportunity*

2. How do we give to the poor?

8:8 I say this not as a command, but to prove by the earnestness of others that your love also is genuine.

Principle #1: Give from a generous heart

2. How do we give to the poor?

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9:7 Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

Principle #1: Give from a generous heart

2. How do we give to the poor?

¹We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, ²for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. ³For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, ⁴begging us earnestly for the favour of taking part in the relief of the saints...

Principle #1: Give from a generous heart

2. How do we give to the poor?

⁵and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us...

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¹²For if the readiness is there, it is acceptable according to what a person has, not according to what he does not have. ¹³For I do not mean that others should be eased and you burdened, but that as a matter of fairness ¹⁴your abundance at the present time should supply their need, so that their abundance may supply your need, that there may be fairness. ¹⁵As it is written, “Whoever gathered much had nothing left over, and whoever gathered little had no lack.”

Principle #2: Give according to what you have

2. How do we give to the poor?

⁸And 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.

⁹As it is written, “He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.” ¹⁰He 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. ¹¹You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God.

Principle #2: Give according to what you have

2. How do we give to the poor?

²⁷“But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹To one who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from one who takes away your cloak do not withhold your tunic either. ³⁰Give to everyone who begs from you, and from one who takes away your goods do not demand them back. ³¹And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them... ³⁵But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. ³⁶Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.

Principle #3: Generosity is the default

2. How do we give to the poor?

So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith. *(Galatians 6:10)*

Guideline #1: Give to those closer first

2. How do we give to the poor?

So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith. *(Galatians 6:10)*

And let our people learn to devote themselves to good works, so as to help cases of urgent need, and not be unfruitful. *(Titus 3:14)*

Guideline #2: Give to the more needy first

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So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith. *(Galatians 6:10)*

And let our people learn to devote themselves to good works, so as to help cases of urgent need, and not be unfruitful. *(Titus 3:14)*

A specific opportunity!