

Jubilee Meditations: True Security & Generosity

2 Corinthians 8:8–15 (Leviticus 25)

March 30, 2014

Sermon Outline

Notes:

I. Introduction

A. Children's Sermon: Falling Asleep

John 11:25–26

²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, *though he die, yet shall he live*, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me *shall never die*. Do you believe this?"

B. Sabbath & Jubilee Years

It was a time of rest, but this term indicates a time of enjoyed fulfillment more than simply doing nothing. ***The Sabbath Year reminded them that the land was not their land but God's*** and that they had the responsibility ***to ensure that all people shared in his bounty***. It taught the people that they had to trust the LORD's provisions during the year in which they could not work the fields. And it gave them the opportunity to pursue spiritual, social, and civic obligations more fully.¹ (Bold Mine)

The main motif of this passage concerns the hope of release from debts, slavery, and bondage. Related to this is the idea of justice that safeguarded balance in society. The wealthy were not being punished but knew that their possessions were for a season. The poor were overjoyed to know they could have a fresh start. And ***everyone was reminded that this was God's land***.² (Bold Mine)

B. Following God's Word is Our Security

Leviticus 25:18–22

¹⁸ "Therefore you shall do my statutes and keep my rules and perform them, and ***then you will dwell in the land securely***. ¹⁹ The land will yield its fruit, and you will eat your fill and dwell in it securely.

¹ Ross, A. P. (2002). *Holiness to the Lord: A Guide to the Exposition of the Book of Leviticus* (454). Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic.

² Ibid. (457).

Key Idea

True security comes only from God himself. When he provides earthly wealth it is both a picture of His eternal provision for us and an opportunity for us to participate in His provision for others.

II. The LORD Provides Our Life

A. Not by Bread Alone (Mt. 6:31–34; Lk. 4:17–21)

Deuteronomy 8:3ff (Jesus – Mt. 4:4; Lk.4:4)

³ And he humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that he might make you know that ***man does not live by bread alone***, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord. ...

John 4:34

³⁴ Jesus said to them, “***My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work.***”

1 Timothy 6:17–19

¹⁷ ***As for the rich in this present age***, charge them not to be haughty, nor to ***set their hopes*** on the uncertainty of riches, but ***on God***, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy.¹⁸ They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share,¹⁹ thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is ***truly life***.

B. Conduct Worthy of the Gospel (Phil. 1:27)

Paul does not say that we ourselves are worthy of the Gospel, for that would be a contradiction in terms: the Gospel, by definition, is good news to people who are not worthy of it. But once we have received the Gospel, however unworthy we may be, we are to conduct ourselves in a manner worthy of it.³

(Unity, courage in the face of suffering; “mind of Christ...”)

³ Carson, D. A. (1998). *For the love of God: A daily companion for discovering the riches of God's Word. Volume 2* (25). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books.

2 Corinthians 8:8–11

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

Acts 4:34–35; 5:3–4

³⁴ *There was not a needy person among them*, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold ³⁵ and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need. ... (Barnabas)

³ But **Peter said, "Ananias**, why has Satan filled your heart to *lie to the Holy Spirit* and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land? ⁴ *While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not at your disposal?* Why is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to man but to God."

III. Application: Cultivate True Security & Generosity

Key Idea

Prayerfully cultivate a heart that trusts God and is generous toward others.

A. Cultivate True Security

1. Seek God's Kingdom & Righteousness 1st
 - a. Know the God of the Bible
 - b. Take a regular Sabbath
 - c. Obey God

2. Confess Broken Cisterns (**Jeremiah 2:13**;
Remember the Gospel)
 - a. Riches
 - b. Sex, Drugs...
 - c. Good things in your life: “But at least I have...”
 3. Repeat 1 & 2
- B. Cultivate Genuine Generosity
1. See “Cultivate True Security” above
 2. Be deliberately thankful for your salvation
 3. Work hard **so** you can be generous
 4. Give sacrificially but do not give what you do not have

2 Corinthians 8:12–15

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.”

5. Thank God for giving you the opportunity to participate in his provision