

Message Notes

Welfare and the City
2 Corinthians 8:1-9
Pastor Steve Leonard
September 10, 2006

Message Outline

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I. Who is Trinity Christian Community?

- A. Grace's connection...
- B. What they're about...
- C. What they did...

II. What did our Team do in New Orleans?

- A. The make-up of our team...
- B. The rubber hits the road...
- C. Contrasting tours of New Orleans...

III. Lessons from a Broken City

- A. Giving out of poverty
 - 2 Cor 8:1-9
 - Chantelle's story
 - The challenge...
- B. Joyful, not guilty, mercy
 - 2 Cor. 9:6-15; 8:1-5
 - Larie's story
 - The challenge...
- C. Conducting God's mercy
 - Gen 12:1-3; Jer 29:7
 - The story of Kevin Brown
 - The challenge...
- D. The Restoring Power of the Gospel
 - The alienation of the Fall
 - The Restoration of Christ
 - The example in New Orleans
 - Bringing it home...

Growth Group Understanding Questions

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1. Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-9 again. How does Paul address the issue of money and wealth and giving in terms of the Gospel here? What are some of the key “content” words and phrases of this text and how do they serve Paul’s argument about giving in the Corinthian church?
2. What is the obligation of 2 Cor. 9:6-7? What is the source of our ability to live out this obligation in vv. 8-15? How does this text relate to 2 Corinthians 8:1-5?
3. What is the result of living the way 2 Corinthians 9:6-15 produces in the giver? In the recipient?
4. What is the Lord commanding Abraham (Abram) to do in Gen 12:1-3? Put yourself in Abraham’s shoes—what are the implications of this for Abraham? What would this mean in your life if God called you to this?
5. What is God’s promise to Abraham in Gen 12:1-3 that enables him to obey the Lord? What does this tell us about God’s character and how he works in and through our lives?
6. Read Jeremiah 29:1-14. Look again at v. 7. What is going on in Israel’s life in this text? What’s surprising about God’s command here? What principle does this text teach regarding the believer’s responsibility in the city? In the larger non-Christian culture?

Growth Group Application Questions

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1. What was the most encouraging or challenging thing about our message/text this week? What was new?
2. Compare and contrast the issue of the Jerusalem Church’s need in 2 Corinthians 8:1-9 and the need in New Orleans. What kind of city was Corinth in terms of wealth? Macedonia? How do we in SLO compare?
3. How does the Gospel prompt us to come alongside those who are in need? What’s the basis of our mercy to others? What do these Corinthian texts teach us about the nature of the broader church community?
4. Pastor Steve shared stories of people they worked with at Trinity Christian Community. Which one moved you, or made you think the most? Why?
5. How can you be a conduit of God’s blessing and grace where you work, live, serve? In what area of your life is God challenging you to up the ante?

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We believe that gathering in small groups of 6-12 people to study the Bible, pray for each other and care for each other is the best way to make a large and growing church feel like a small church.

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