



# Leader

10/9 - 2 Corinthians 8:7-11; 9:5-8

## Theology Refresher - "The Macedonian Call"

"The Macedonian Call" refers to a portion of scripture where Paul receives a vision from the Lord on his second missionary journey. This call was a series of Spirit-led "closed doors" that prevented Paul, Silas, and Timothy from continuing the journey on the path they intended. This call culminates in a vision that Paul receives of a Macedonian man begging him to come to come and help them. Being devoted to the Spirits leading, Paul and Luke head West towards the region of Macedonia. This call changed the landscape for the spread of the gospel in Europe.

[Read in Acts 15:39-18:22]

## LOVE

**A new commandment I give to you, that you love *one another*... (John 13:34)**

- *Internal*: How was your week...anything new?! How is your walk with the Lord? Did you have any opportunities to share the Lord with anyone?
- *External*: Is there any individual or family who is struggling or needs encouragement? How can we pray, encourage, and show love to them?

## TRUTH

**Let the word of God dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing *one another*... (Col. 3:16)**

1. When you reflect on the message from Sunday, what most resonated with you?

[Dialogue]

2. Read our primary text. Who can refresh us on what is happening here? What is the context? What is Paul trying to communicate to the Corinthians?

Paul is asking the Corinthians if they would model the generosity of those believers in Macedonia who gave sacrificially to support the Christians in Jerusalem. The Jerusalem Christians had experienced great persecution and loss, so Paul was trying to raise support for them. Raising support for Jerusalem was something Paul had done before in other cities (Ephesus, Macedonia, Achaia). Later, in Acts 21-24 we find out that Paul was arrested as he arrived in Jerusalem to deliver these gifts (he was wrongly accused of bringing a Gentile into the inner sanctuary, so he was arrested for "defiling the temple").

3. In verse 8, Paul alludes to the fact that the Macedonians have displayed love. We read about love in other places in the Bible, but what about their actions displays true love?

The Macedonians were not coerced into giving anything. Their actions were purely voluntary and were birthed out of a desire to give to the Lord's work.

4. When you reflect on your life, do you think that you sow sparingly or sow bountifully towards others/the church? [opportunity to reflect]

[Reflection question to segway into next question]

5. Practically, how do you cultivate a heart of generosity?

By God's grace he has given us holy counterparts to every sinful desire. To combat greed, God has given us the gift of generosity. Just like anything in life, if a believer does not exercise this gift, he or she will begin to develop roots of greed, which lead to devastating consequences.

6. How does this text challenge you? How does it affect your daily life?

[Dialogue]

7. How would you briefly summarize this passage? How might you share this passage/truth with someone else? A child? A family member?

[Dialogue]

## GREAT COMMISSION

**Go therefore and make disciples of all nations... (Matt. 28:19-20)**

- How are we doing as a group with the Great Commission?
  - Is there anyone that you need to invite to church or this group?
  - Is there anyone who needs to hear what we learned today in God's word?
  - Does anyone need a "refresher" on how to share the gospel?

## PRAYER/REPENTANCE

**But exhort *one another* every day, as long as it is called "today,"... (Heb. 3:12-14)**

- Without getting too specific, is there anything you want to repent of before the group?  
[apathy, idolatry, selfishness, jealousy, anger]
- Let's confess our shortcomings to the Lord and pray what we have learned in God's word.

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Sources:

- ESV Study Bible (Crossway)
- [www.gotquestions.org/Macedonian-Call](http://www.gotquestions.org/Macedonian-Call)