



Now, friends, I want to report on the surprising and generous ways in which God is working in the churches in Macedonia province. Fierce troubles came down on the people of those churches, pushing them to the very limit. The trial exposed their true colors: They were incredibly happy, though desperately poor. The pressure triggered something totally unexpected: an outpouring of pure and generous gifts. I was there and saw it for myself. They gave offerings of whatever they could—far more than they could afford!—pleading for the privilege of helping out in the relief of poor Christians.

2 Corinthians 8:1-4
The Message

“Avarice and Generosity”

April 7, 2019

Each day, we have the opportunity to choose life or death.

The Vice: Avarice

Avarice is a fancy word for _____.

“...*the accumulation and overabundance of material wealth.*”

Fr. Joseph David Huneycutt

We think greed is only a problem for people _____ than us.

Greed can lead us to behave in ways we would find _____ in others.

It’s a problem of the _____, not of the wallet.

“Take care, be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of _____.” Luke 12:15

Greed erodes our compassion and increases our _____.

The Virtue: Generosity

Paul was encouraging the Corinthians to give to a collection for the _____ in Jerusalem.

Despite their poverty and affliction, the Macedonian Christians gave _____ to the collection.

How do we live so generously? We give ourselves _____ to God.

“*For as a fountain if it keeps its waters within itself grows _____, so also rich men when they retain every thing in their possession.*”

St. John Chrysostom

When your cup overflows, don’t buy a bigger one. Fill someone else’s.
#A2sermon

Richard Foster’s Three Inner Attitudes of Simplicity:

1. To receive what we have as a _____ from God.
2. To know that it is _____ business to care for what we have.
3. To have our _____ available to others.

Action Steps:

1. Give away something that is _____ to you.
2. Every day this week, find a way to be _____ with your possessions, wealth, time, or energy.