

# WORLD HUNGER *Sermon Notes*

PREPARED BY REV. JOE HAMILTON

**TEXT:** 2 Corinthians 8:9

**THEME:** We are rich in His poverty.

**SUMMARY:** God not only hears the hungry cries from those in poverty but answers them by sending His own Son to enter our poverty in order that we might be lifted up. As the church, we are called to share in this task of lifting others up as we have been lifted up.

## RESOURCES:

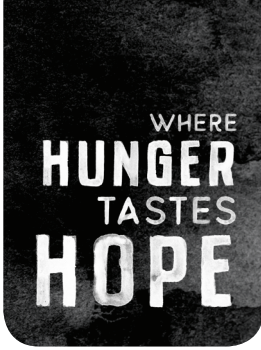
- Visual Summary of When Helping Hurts<sup>1</sup>
- Sampley, J. Paul. "The Second Letter to the Corinthians." *New Interpreter's Bible*. Ed. Leander E. Keck. I-XII. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1994-2004. Print.
- Chafin, Kenneth L., and Lloyd J. Ogilvie. *1, 2 Corinthians*. Vol. 30. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Inc, 1985. Print. The Preacher's Commentary Series.

## I. STARTING POINT

- A. In the book *When Helping Hurts* Steve Corbett & Brian Fikkert offer a powerful picture of poverty. It's not the economic poverty we often imagine with the "haves" on one side and the "have nots" on the other.
- B. When any one of our foundational relationships become broken, we find poverty. In the midst of this brokenness, issues like World Hunger thrive.
- C. Our task then changes. It becomes less about giving handouts and more about giving a hand up. It becomes less about replacing the stuff that's missing, and more about restoring the relationships that have become broken.
- D. In the context of the "big story"<sup>2</sup> of scripture – creation, fall, redemption, and consummation – we see God's response to poverty as being God's response to sin: Christ!
- E. Salvation, our deliverance, is as much about spiritual well-being as it is about our physical.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://network.crcna.org/sites/default/files/documents/When%20Helping%20Hurts%20Visual%20Summary.pdf>  
<sup>2</sup> Sampley, J. Paul. "The Second Letter to the Corinthians." *New Interpreter's Bible*. Ed. Leander E. Keck. I-XII. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1994-2004. Print.



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## II. THE TENSION IN THE TEXT

- A. Paul was addressing the “haves” living in Corinth. On economic terms you could say that they had it all.
- B. He pits them and their response to a request for benevolence against the “have nots” from Macedonia.
- C. They might have been poor in body, but in mind and Spirit the Macedonians were rich! Their relationship with God was obviously thriving and they knew the importance of sharing the wealth of the grace they’d received.

## III. THE TENSION IN THE WORLD

Can we give as generously as the Macedonians when we’re called to answer a need like World Hunger? Or will we ignore the hungry cries of those in poverty?

As our text says, when we know Christ and what He has done for us, we are made rich in Him!

### A. The Grace in the Text

- Staying within this letter, the grace lay not only in what Christ has done for the Corinthians. There is also a level of incredible grace in the potential of what Christ may yet still do through them should they show compassion to others.

### B. The Grace for the World

- In Christ, sin loses its hold on us and the broken relationships we have can be restored. Through His entering our poverty, we gain all the wealth of His grace!
- The grace then is found, not only in what Christ has done for us already, but in the potential of what Christ will do through us yet!
- This is the goal of our faith after all: that as we build up others in their lives, we can point them to Christ so that the foundational relationships with themselves, God, others, and creation can be restored!
- For us, too, the goal of our faith, becomes like the test for the Corinthians – to be eager to share generously the wealth we’ve been given! To do good by spreading the good news of Jesus Christ and working to lift up those around us so that they too might experience the wealth of His love for them!