

Week Three: Serving God with our Treasure

Psalm 95 / Luke 6.37-42

28th September 2025 – Revd Michelle Lepine

Summary of key points

“O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise.” (Psalm 95.1-2)

“give and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.” (Luke 6.38)

“Let us more and more insist on raising funds of love, of kindness, of understanding, of peace. Money will come if we seek first the kingdom of God – the rest will be given.” (Mother Teresa)

We conclude our teaching on Generosity by considering how we serve God with our treasure, mindful of the verse from 1 Chronicles 29, ‘Lord, all things come from you, and of your own do we give you.’

Talking about money in a church context can feel uncomfortable and embarrassing, yet Jesus didn’t shy away from this subject. Only the subject of love is explored more frequently in the Bible and as Mother Teresa’s words above suggest, the two are linked.

Our financial giving is necessary to continue the mission and ministry of Jesus, to respond to the needs of God’s people, to grow in number and depth as his disciples and to maintain the presence of God in the world through the fabric of our buildings, teaching, worship, and outreach. It’s part of what it means to be a disciple.

Our own generosity begins and ends with the generous nature of God towards the whole of his creation, witnessed throughout the Bible and highlighted in Psalm 95. Luke also reminds us to regularly examine our own hearts and to explore our own relationship between love and gift. We must seek to be generous in our capacity to accept others without judgement, in our

willingness to acknowledge and address our own failings, not comparing others' behaviours unfavourably to our own and seeking forgiveness and reconciliation in all our relationships.

We give according to our means. Anything we give to God, whether big or small – our time, talents, and financial resources – if given sincerely and in praise of him are blessed and loved by God. Our generosity reflects God's image in us and is a hallmark of a lived-out faith.

Application questions for discussion

Read the Bible passages again, ideally using at least 2 different versions, and then consider the following questions:

- Consider your own attitude to money and generosity. Do you see financial giving as one of the hallmarks of a disciple?
- It could be said that it is possible to read the entire Bible as a narrative of giving. Do you agree? Which Bible stories or verses stand out to you as showing God's generous and giving nature?
- Where can you see God at work in our church, community, or world? What one area of church or community life would you like to see develop and how could generous financial giving make a difference?
- We want to build a culture of generosity across the whole of St Edmund's for God's sake, and for his praise and glory. If you have ideas about we can do this, please do let us know. The following short video from the Diocese of Leeds stewardship team might help your reflections and prayers.

<https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/building-generous-church/national-giving-team>

Prayer activity

Generous and loving God,

We offer thanks and praise as we recognize that all we receive comes from you.

Guide us to use your abundant gifts wisely, sharing what we have generously, with our eyes fixed on our faithful stewardship bearing witness to the love of Christ in our lives.

In Jesus Christ's name.

Amen.