

Sermon Notes – Sunday 19th May

Becoming more like Jesus

‘It is more blessed to give than to receive’ Acts 20:35

- Describe a time when you have experienced the joy of giving?
- Consider someone who stands out for you as one who radiates generosity. How have they inspired you?

Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-9. Sometimes we might think only the well off can afford to be generous, but that is not the case for the Macedonian Christians.

- How does their expression of generosity inspire and challenge us?
- What can we learn about the experience of ‘overflowing joy’ in the context of ‘rich generosity’?

Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-11. Agricultural principles of sowing and reaping are applied to the kind of person I am becoming or aspire to be.

- Where do you find it easier/harder to be generous:
 1. In use of words of encouragement/affirmation
 2. In giving time to support or listen or serve
 3. In offering of money to meet a need
 4. In providing hospitality to offer a meal/bed for the night
 5. Other ways of expressing a generous heart?
- Read Luke 6:38. What do these words suggest to you?
- How were these principles (2 Cor 9:11) worked out in the life of the early church (Acts 2:44-47)?

It has been said; ‘Generosity is the new evangelism’. Notice how the spirit of generosity led to the rapid growth of the early church (Acts 2:47b).

- Read 1 John 3:16-18. What challenge does John set before us?
- Read Matthew 6:19-21. How do these words of Jesus act as a barometer for how we live our lives and the decisions we take?

Pray for one another that we will listen to what God is teaching us and apply it to our lives.

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