# Generosity -12 May 2024, Rendle Williams (BCT)

We are shortly going to bring our tithes and offering to the Lord.

Before we do, I want to bring our focus on Jesus teaching for us on generosity. How do you work what to give? What was the gift you most want to give to your mother? To the vulnerable people in the streets of our city?

We all have a system of judging who gets our help and who doesn’t. We all have some system of deciding who receives our gifts or our generosity?

It is my honour today to point us towards God’s heart about gifts. Luke 6 we hear the words of Jesus about what God wants FOR us.

We know if we truly follow the ways of Jesus we see that God wants to utilize our money and resources to deepen our relationship with Him. We may very familiar with these verses, however they may have very little impact on our thinking if we rush over them.

Luke chapter 6, starting in verse 27.

It says; **“But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn to them the other also.”**

*But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked.*

How about this one?

**“Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. Do to others as you would have them do to you.”**

What is Jesus really implying with these verses?

Jesus says two things here that I want us to focus on.

First of all, He says that the way that we think about and handle our material possessions will separate us from the rest of the world. People will know that we are following Jesus by the way that we live…if we truly live out these teachings.

But, second, and potentially more important, Jesus says that when we do these things…when we love our enemies and treat them well…when we live with open hands of generosity…we will be known as “children of the Most High, because He is kind to the ungrateful and wicked.”

Here’s the thing for us …. **We are most like God when we give**.

God is not generous because of the worthiness of the recipient.

He’s generous based on the goodness of His character. And if we are ever going to get this right…if we are ever going to be good imitators of Jesus, we have to give out of a desire to imitate God’s character and not out of a desire to reward the recipient for their worthiness. That’s simply the way of God. He is radically generous all the time. **And we are most like God when we give.**

If God is open-handedly gracious and generous toward you, how will you handle the possessions that He’s placed in your care?

* On the screen is the way you can give online to our church, to help build the kingdom of Jesus here.
* There is also opportunity to help fund raise of the work of helping others of the Salvation Army for the Red Shield Appeal. Please come and see me if you need help in creating a digital doorknock page.

Please bring your tithes and offering to the Lord -either coming to the plate on the table at the front, or via online. Please give whilst Elizabeth plays for us.