

Daily Devotions: Generosity

Monday 9th November 1 Cor 16:1-4 and 2 Cor 9:1-15

Questions: *Which of these two approaches to giving does Paul endorse in vs 1-5: thoughtful planning or spontaneity? Is your own giving characterised by thoughtful planning, or spontaneity?*

What especially challenges you in vs 6-15? What encourages you?

Tuesday 10th November Deuteronomy 8:1-20

In this passage, some of God's lessons were for a specific time, people and place. Other lessons apply to us as well.

Questions: *Put pencil marks in your Bible alongside the lessons God still wants to teach us today. Which of these are priorities for you?*

Wednesday 11th November Pro 3:9-10, Mal 3:6-12, Matt 23:23-24

A tithe was one tenth of a person's income (including crops and herds). It was given to provide for the needs of the Levites, who served God's people in the temple.

Mal 3:10 is the only place in the Bible where God commands his people to test him.

Questions: *Is there a clear command in the New Testament to tithe, as a matter of law (Matt 23:23-24)?*

Can I interpret my freedom in Christ to mean giving less than an Old Testament peasant farmer who would probably die if his crops failed?

What makes it difficult for you to tithe?

Thursday 12th November Mal 3:6-12 9 (again) and Matthew 6:25-34

The promise of crop protection in Mal 3:11 was for a specific time, people and place.

Questions: *List the issues in your life that cause you the greatest anxiety.*

Underline in pencil the words in this passage that show how God feels about you and your circumstances.

How do you think will God bless you today, if you are generous in serving him?

Daily Devotions: Generosity continued

Friday 13th November James 5:1-6

This passage pulls no punches. Hoarding wealth at the expense of others is exceedingly dangerous.

Questions: *At what point in this passage are you most likely to fail (or have you failed in the past)?*

What do you think lies behind your capacity to do this? (Reflect on the formative early years of your life in particular.)

Pray for God's forgiveness and protection.

Saturday 14th November 1 Timothy 6:3-11

Questions: *People often misquote Paul by saying, "Money is the root of all evil". Is that what he really says?*

Are you content? What percentage of your "mind time" is taken up with thinking about what you don't already have?

Sunday 15th November 1 Timothy 6:17-19

Question: *Write out this passage in your own words and use your own name to make it more personal (eg "Tell David Ritchie, who by any standards today is a wealthy man...").*

What do you hear God saying to you?