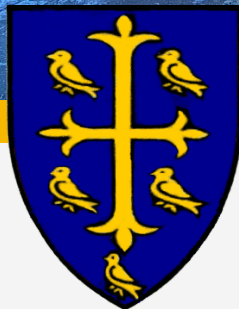




St Edward the Confessor Dringhouses, York



Living Generously:
Money Matters in the Bible

GOD'S OWNERSHIP OF EVERYTHING

Scripture repeatedly reminds us of God being the ultimate owner of everything. As creator, He is ultimately owner and we are merely stewards for a time!

Genesis 1.26-end, Exodus 19.5-6, Psalm 24.1, Job 41.11

THE LIGHT SIDE OF MONEY

Money is often portrayed in Scripture as a sign of God's blessing, and there are many examples where wealth is used to serve others and bring them blessing.

Genesis 12.1-3 and 13.2

Wealth as a sign of blessing to Abraham.

Genesis 26.12-14

Wealth as a sign of blessing to Jacob.

1 Kings 3.13, 10.23-end

Wealth as a sign of blessing to Solomon.

Matthew 27.57-61, John 19.38-42

Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus use their wealth to give Jesus a proper burial.

Luke 10.25-37

The Good Samaritan uses money to bless someone.

Luke 19.1-10

Zacchaeus uses his wealth to right wrongs.

Luke 8.1-3

Wealthy women look after Jesus and the disciples.

Acts 19.18-20

The destruction of wealth as a sign of spiritual renewal.

THE DARK SIDE OF MONEY

Jesus gave many warnings about being distracted by wealth. He urged his followers to focus on the Kingdom of God, not money!

Deuteronomy 16.18-20, James 2.1-7

Money can destroy relationships.

Ecclesiastes 5.8 - 6.12

A reflection on the folly of seeking after riches.

Matthew 6.19-24, Luke 6.24, Luke 12.15, Luke 16.13

Jesus' warnings about wealth.

Luke 12.16-21, Luke 16.19-31

Warnings about the foolishness of the accumulation of wealth.

Luke 14.25-33

Possessions and other sources of security may stop us following Jesus wholeheartedly.

1 Timothy 6.6-10

What kinds of evil might emerge from a love of money?

GIVING

2 Corinthians 8 and 9

The key text on giving in the New Testament.

Deuteronomy 14.22-29, Deuteronomy 26, Leviticus 27.30

Tithing in the Old Testament.

2 Chronicles 31.2-10, Nehemiah 10.35-39, Malachi 3.8-12

The blessing of tithing in the Old Testament.

Matthew 26.6-12, Luke 7.36-50, John 12.1-8

The anointing of Jesus as an act of worship.

Mark 12.41-44

The widow's mite – the point is not that she gave a little, but that she gave everything she had.

Luke 6.30, 12.33

Jesus encourages his followers to give to the poor.

Acts 4.32-37

Generosity in the early Church.

Romans 12.8

Giving as a spiritual gift.

God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.

2 Corinthians 9.8



**SO WHAT
DOES THIS
MEAN FOR
US?**

Living Generously challenges us to become more Christ-like, growing in sacrificial generosity, and receiving in order to give away. In the Church of England we talk about the five steps of nurturing giving, the five ways we go about thinking about money and possessions – and I wonder as you read them overleaf where you see yourself. This is a really helpful illustration of the journey we need to go on as Christians and the journey for us as a church.

THE FIVE STEPS OF NURTURING GIVING

1. What do I do with my money?

This is mine, I've earned it, what do I want to do with it?

2. What do I want to do with the money God has given to me?

This brings an acknowledgement that God has given us those resources as gift.

3. What does God want me to do with what God has given to me?

This brings us into the mind-set that not only has God given us these gifts, but he might also have plans for them which we need to discern in order for us to live a generous life.

4. What does God want me to give from what God has given me?

This moves us toward not only thinking about what we do, but how much we are willing to give away.

5. What does God want me to keep from what God has given to me?

We've moved from seeing things as ours, to being stewards of God's resources, called to reflect on how we are blessed in order to be a blessing, and are given gifts in order to give them away.

This last model of giving, of 'what does God want me to keep from what God has given me?', is one which we are called to journey towards, encouraging one another, and growing into that model both individually and as a church. Our vision for a generous church is one which receives in order to give away – grounded in prayer and joy, giving thanks to God, in Jesus Christ.

You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us.

2 Corinthians 9.11

www.stedsdringhouses.org