

Generous Giving 2

Responding generously to God with our treasure



The Woman at the Well: John 4: 4-26

Today is the second in our three-part series looking at Generous Giving from a Biblical perspective.

Last week we looked at a very poor widow who put two tiny coins into the Temple treasury in contrast to very wealthy people who made a show of giving a lot. Jesus commended the widow and said that she had given more than the others because she had given all she had. We reminded ourselves that God is an exceedingly generous God and that he has given us a wonderful world to enjoy. God's ultimate act of generosity was to send his Son to die for us and open a gateway to heaven by which we inherit eternal life. Meanwhile, in this life, empowered by the Holy Spirit living in us, we are called to demonstrate God's generous nature

This Week: The Woman at the Well

Jesus was travelling through Samaria, a hostile environment for Jews, when he came to Jacob's well. Jacob, a patriarch (father of the nation) had been blessed by God and had moved from being a nomad to buying land to settle down near Shechem. In need of water for his animals and crops he had dug a well, in part hewn out of hard rock, a difficult and costly task; this well was a lifeline for the whole community. Some 1900 years later Jesus stopped there and asked a woman to give him a drink. In discussion Jesus promised her the water of life which would well up within her and give her new hope and meaning. The woman personally encountered the Son of God and her life was never the same again.

In our series on Generous Giving today we remind ourselves that giving for special projects is an important part of what we can do. Jacob's well blessed countless generations of thirsty locals and travellers. It proved to be a place where Jesus could bring people new life, way beyond anything Jacob could have imagined.

In this Parish

There has been a Christian church in Chalfont St Peter for at least 1300 years. Throughout that time people have given generously to provide the resources we enjoy today. More recent examples include the Parish Hall

refurbishment, the All Saints' Organ upgrade, the All Saints' St Cecilia window, the Parish Church AV replacement and upgrade (hopefully soon to be installed). The last major project on our current list is the replacement of the Parish Church organ which is increasingly expensive to repair, challenging to play and limited in its capabilities. An organ replacement sub-committee is currently reviewing high quality digital organs which will greatly enhance our traditional and contemporary worship services and occasional offices, particularly weddings and funerals. The current estimate of cost is in the region of £35,000. We plan that the bulk of one off donations at this year's Gift Day will be directed to this project.

Ten Principles of Christian Giving: 2 Corinthians 8 and 9

The following is extracted from *The Grace of Giving* by John Stott (Hendrickson Publishers) and merits prayerful study and meditation.

- Christian giving is an expression of the grace of God
- Christian giving can be a charisma, a gift of the Holy Spirit
- Christian giving is inspired by the cross of Christ
- Christian giving is proportionate giving
- Christian giving contributes towards equality
- Christian giving must be carefully supervised
- Christian giving can be stimulated by a little friendly competition
- Christian giving resembles a harvest
- Christian giving has symbolic significance
- Christian giving promotes thanksgiving to God.

Next Week: GIFT DAY

Please bring revised planned giving pledges and one off gifts to place in offering to be blessed.

Teaching on Giving through Legacy