

“We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us... if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.” **Romans 12:6,8**

“I am afraid the only safe rule is to give *more* than we can spare. In other words, if our expenditure on comforts, luxuries, amusements, etc, is up to the standard common among those with the same income as our own, we are probably giving away too little.” **C.S. Lewis**

ALL FOR JESUS – week 4 – **Generosity.**

From the hymn by Frances Ridley Havergal written on 4th Feb 1874:

Take my silver and my gold not a mite would I withhold.

Take my intellect and use every power as Thou shalt choose.

SONGS OF WORSHIP – Songs like *When I survey* or *Goodness of God* will fit with the theme.

BIBLE PASSAGES referred to in the video:

Luke 21:1-4 and **Romans 12:1-2** (and optionally read on in **Romans 12** to include **3-8**)

THEMES EXPLORED this week:

There are 2 themes corresponding to the 2 parts of the 4th verse of the hymn.

- (i) Radical *generosity* - how can we follow the example of the widow who gave a *small gift at great cost*?
- (ii) Having the *mind of Christ* is explored and, more specifically, the call to follow Christ as we consider *lifestyle, spending, priorities* etc. rather than being moulded by ‘the world’.



HEADLINES FROM THE VIDEO

Andy says, “The widow understood that *EVERYTHING* she had was to be sacrificially committed to God’s good purposes, whatever they might be.”

“If our charities do not at all pinch or hamper us, I should say they are too small. There ought to be things we should like to do and cannot do because our charitable expenditure excludes them.” **C.S. Lewis**

Andy says, “The world pressures us to live for ourselves, to consume more and more, to spend our attention and affection on things which, with God’s eternal perspective, are meaningless distractions. But the Bible tells us that ‘we have the *mind of Christ*’ – and in following him in living *HIS sacrificial life*, we dedicate ourselves to an attitude of radical generosity.”

USE ANY OF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS TO CLARIFY AND DRAW OUT THE THEME(S):

Luke 21:1-4 and Romans 12:1-2 (and optionally read on in Romans 12 to include 3-8)

The kingdom of God

- Where have you noticed small, hidden acts of faithfulness?
- How does this redefinition of “more” (see v3) challenge your cultural assumptions about success, wealth, and pleasing God?
- Are there other ways that you see the ‘upside down nature’ of the kingdom in the gospels?

Allowing the passage to speak to us

- The widow “put in all she had to live on.” (v4) – how do you respond when you read this?
- How do ‘fear and self protection’ shape the way we give—time, compassion, resources— is Jesus wanting to reshape our view?
- What small, ‘hidden actions’ might Jesus value more than the ‘big’ things we often celebrate?

A renewed mind

- What does it mean to have “the mind of Christ” – what does the rest of the passage reveal?
- Do you give out of your ‘surplus’ or does your giving of time/money ‘pinch or hamper’ you?
- What are the greatest pressures you face to be just like the world around us?
- Read the quotes in “HEADLINES” above. Which of these speaks most clearly to you today?

MAKE IT PERSONAL – some suggestions

Make a decision to give away something free of charge on Freecycle or the St Paul's Buy/ Sell/ Swap/ Freecycle Facebook group 😊

Write out **Romans 12 v 2** on a postcard. *Read it prayerfully.* Then take a walk around your home. Ask the Holy Spirit to speak to you? What do you notice? What is the Spirit asking you to do?

Arrange to meet someone for coffee. Treat them, not only to a coffee but by being generous with your time and attention. Is there a way you could bless them in the coming week?

GROWING IN OUR DISCIPLESHIP - heart, head, hands and feet

The questions below help us to reflect on what we're taking away by way of *learning and encouragement...* and *challenge!*

It would be helpful to give group members a copy of this page 😊

Area of our discipleship	In words...	Key thought explored in this study	A question to consider
	Loving Jesus		
	Learning from Jesus	The study invites us consider what it means to have 'the mind of Christ'.	Is there something I need to stop doing? ... or start doing? ... so that I allow my mind to be renewed by the Holy Spirit?
	Imitating Jesus	Jesus offered himself and made the ultimate sacrifice.	In what way could I follow the example of Jesus in generous and sacrificial living?
	Sharing Jesus		