

## Sermon Discussion - 14 May 2023

Read Luke 6:38; 2 Corinthians 9:6-7; Malachi 3:8-10; Philippians 4:11-13; Romans 12:6-8 together.

### **Getting Started** *Sharing from personal experience*

The apostle Paul quotes Jesus as saying, "It is more blessed to give than to receive (Acts 20:35)." Jesus is saying that when we give – whether it is time, energy, service, encouragement, resource, or whatever – there is an even greater blessing than when we are on the receiving end. That sounds unnatural, almost counter-cultural, doesn't it? I mean, wouldn't we be happier if we were always on the receiving end of things? How is it more blessed to give than to receive?

### **Observation** *Discovering the context*

In the sermon, we discussed two extremes to avoid regarding blessing...

- Why is it dangerous to have a theology/understanding of blessing that is basically "giving to get from God"? What type of position does this put God in?
- When you fail to believe that a life of generosity actually leads to blessing, what do you miss out on?

### **Interpretation** *Discovering the meaning*

1. Who in your life is someone that you would consider a generous person? What traits or values do you notice as they serve others?
2. There were three areas of blessing discussed in the sermon (spiritual blessings-growing in faith; emotional blessings-finding contentment; and financial blessings-being used to bless others). Which one of these do you desire the experience the most through generosity? Why?
3. Read Hebrews 13:5-6. How do you define "contentment"? In your own experiences, what have you discovered to be the key to contentment?
4. What does the idea of receiving eternal rewards tell you about the heart of God? How do you feel about the idea of eternal rewards? For example, does it motivate you, does it scare you, etc.
5. Think of the words bless, blessed, blessing. How are they different? What does it mean to be a blessing or to bless someone?

**Application** *Putting knowledge into practice*

- Are you willing to sit before God and ask Him to lead you in your giving? Spend some time this week doing just that.
- Are you willing to trust Him and take the next step in your giving journey? Pray and discuss with a close friend what that next step may be.
- Try memorising Hebrews 13:5-6.  
*Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." So we can confidently say, "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?"*
- How has God blessed you and answered prayer this week?