**Sermon Notes – Sunday 3rd March**

**‘Resourcing the Church- being Good Stewards’**

Jesus tells a story of a man who calls his servants before he left on a journey and entrusts his property to them that they might be good and responsible stewards of all he owns (Matthew 25:14).

Everything we have belongs to God and He has called us to be faithful and obedient stewards over the resources that he has entrusted to us.

The apostle Paul is writing his 2nd letter to the Christians of the church on Corinth. Building on his example of the Churches in Macedonia (2 Corinthians 8:1-7) who ‘out of their extreme poverty and the most severe trial, gave generously with overflowing joy’ he addresses certain principles in ‘giving’. Read 2 Cor 9: 6-15.

* What are the principles here and how should we approach giving (the attitude in which we give?).
* What do we learn about the character of God? - what God loves and what he is able to do?
* What is the result of generous giving?
* How does this instruction relate to the needs of our church as we approach our Gift Day on Sunday 17th March?
* What does the Bible teach about tithing (Malachi 3:10) and what does God promise when we act in obedience to his command?

**Watch the J John story of donuts from this Youtube link:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I03Jlj4-ZQY>

What is your response to this instruction?

* How might we prayerfully respond to what God wants us to give at our gift day? Do we trust God to provide for all our needs?
* Share stories of God’s faithful provision to you when you have taken a risk in obedience to him. How has this enabled you to respond in open handed generosity to God and to others.

*Pray together for the needs of our church, that the work to which God is calling us will not be held back by financial constraints, but that we will see an abundance of provision*.

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