



Notes from Sheryl Chudley's talk – Sunday 31st October 2010-11-05

In Philippians 4v9 it says

My God shall supply all your needs according to his riches in Christ Jesus.

Now it doesn't say he will meet all our wants.

It doesn't say he'll do it according to how hard we work.

It doesn't say our needs will be met because of how much we earn
or if we own our own home.

Nor has it anything to do with how big, small or even existent our pensions are!

Mr. Cameron can do what he likes but it will not change the truth that it is God who meets all my needs.

In the passage where this verse is found Paul has just been waxing lyrical about how ace the Philippians are because they sent gifts. He says he isn't looking for a gift but encourages them to give it so it can be credited to their 'account'....treasures in Heaven.

In The Message it says

You can be sure that God will take care of everything you need, his generosity exceeding even in the glory that pours from Jesus.

So the Philippians give,
Paul receives and
God supplies.

Giving and receiving is an important principle in the kingdom of God.

It is a flow of blessing we are all able to be a part of, no matter what we have or don't have. No matter if we talk about money or apples!

Talking about apples...

Henry once gave me a load of apples and he said "These are a gift from our Heavenly Father!"

When I got home, I looked at the apples and wondered how to use them. I remembered that we were having a bring and share lunch at church so I made some apple muffins.

At the lunch Henry came to me and kindly complimented me on the muffins. I could tell him they were made from the apples that he had given to me, while rightly reminding me they were actually from God in the first place.

If Henry had generously given me all the apples and I had eaten them all, as well as having stomach ache there wouldn't have been a whole lot of flowing going on!

What if Henry hadn't bothered being generous in the first place?

What if Henry had left them to rot?

What other blessings end with me?

Does money end with me?

Does my home end with me?

Do my talents and spiritual gifts end with me?



Does my knowledge of a half price toy sale at Sainsburys end with me?

No, not if I can help it!

Because, you see I can help it!

I can share what I have with others.

Not only can I not stop the flow, not be the dead end, I can multiply what I have...the principle of **sowing and reaping**

In Luke 6v38

Give and it will be given to you. A good measure pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

So God will give to you using the same measure you use.

Do you want God to use a spoon or a bucket?

It would be great if we were fanatical about giving!

It's not just about money.

It's not just to the church.

It's not just to people you like!

It is good to remember here that God doesn't need a thing you have because he has it anyway!
On the other hand God wants us to be like him

He is so generous that he gave us Jesus.

How to practise generosity.

Live beyond yourself.

Living your life others-centred, allowing God to interrupt your life for the sake of someone else. Dietrich Bonhoeffer once observed. It is part of the discipline of humility that we must not spare our hand where it can perform service and that we do not assume that our schedule is our own to manage but allow it to be arranged by God

Use your mind to think about planning to be generous, make a budget, deal with your debt....call Pete on 27001!

Use your ears, to hear of opportunities to be generous.

Use your eyes to see opportunities.

Use your mouth to speak generously.

Say "yes" We block when we say no. When we fold our arms and refuse. Let this be the year when we say yes to God

Speak healing and hope into the people around us Verbally lifting them up out of the pain and brokenness.

Support someone else's dreams. Agree with their ideas. Find something right about everything they



say or do. Look for every opportunity to offer support. Give them the spotlight. Notice the results.

Use your resources generously

use your money to meet a need

your phone to reach out to

your home for someone to belong

your talents to teach

your stamps to send a card of encouragement or simply we missed you

your car to give someone a lift

your stash in your present box to give something as an act of random kindness

your coffee or tea to be a friend. You know there are a lot of people who are looking for friendship but there are not so many people wanting to be one!

Your access to email to send the leadership team an email to encourage them. "Thanks for all the hard work you do and we don't even pay you!"

use your kitchen to cook food for someone.

(speak about meal rota, Josh's blanket and tins from the cupboard)

Talking of resources

I think there is someone here who feels God has been giving them a poke to give away a car.

He thinks it is a good idea!

Someone here has a stash of gold jewellery that they don't wear. You don't know what to do with it. You could sell it for the price of the gold weight.

He thinks it is a good idea!

Use your uniqueness to take great risks for God. The only mistake is not making one.

Luke 21

As he looked up Jesus saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury. He also saw a poor widow put tin two small copper coins. I tell you the truth he said this poor widow has put it more than all the others. All these people gave their gifts out of their worth; but she, out of her poverty, put in all she had to live on.

The point here is your heart.

Could you close your eyes?

What is stopping you being generous?

What lies are you believing?

What wounds are you carrying?

Are you frightened about the future?

Does your perfectionist streak make you feel your gift ids not good enough?

Are you hoarding because you don't believe that God does provide for your needs, so you have to provide for all your own needs and the endless possibility of needs in the future.

I couldn't possibly give that away, I may need it in the future even though I know someone who

needs it now.



Lets talk about money!

If you are cringing, this is a heart issue that isn't settled for you.

God says you can't serve him and money.
Jesus is not opposed to you owning something.
He is opposed to something owning you!

It is all about heart issues.

In Luke 16 Jesus tells us about the parable of the shrewd manager.
It says, if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? I really want to be trusted with God's true riches, with Heaven's riches, with supernatural riches.

I want to invest everything I have in the Kingdom of God – it is better than any bank!

Next week is gift day.
It is the week that we set aside every year to give our money to invest in the kingdom of God.

Could the people who play a part in these ministries please stand?

Cedar Tree, The Bridge, Worcester CASH, Street Pastors, WASP, Worcester city Mission, The River School

these are the people we are investing in. They are the people who are bringing the Kingdom of God to people all over our city.

Please stand if you have or have ever had a connection with any of these ministries.

We are the people we are investing in. We are the people who are bringing the kingdom of God to people all over our city.

We are partners.

Lets take a moment to think about what we are going to give.

I have no idea how god will use the work of our hands and neither do you!

I think God would say just do something and see what happens

Do not despise these small beginnings for the LORD rejoices to see the work begin. Zechariah 4v10 NLT

The following exert is taken from the book Cure for the Common Life by Max Lucado

Begin. Just begin! What seems small to you might be huge to someone else. Just ask Bohn Fawkes. During World War 11, he piloted a B-17. On one mission he sustained flak from Nazi anti-aircraft



guns. Even though his gas tanks were hit, the plane did not explode and Fawkes was able to land the plane.

On the morning following the raid, Fawkes asked his crew chief for the German shell. He wanted to keep a souvenir of his incredible good fortune. The crew chief explained that not just one but eleven shells had been found in the gas tanks, none of which had exploded.

Technicians opened the missiles and found them void of explosive charge. They were clean and harmless and with one exception, empty. The exception contained a carefully rolled piece of paper. On it a message had been scrawled in the Czech language. Translated, the note read: "This is all we can do for you now."

A courageous assembly-line worker was disarming bombs and scribbled the note. He couldn't end the war but he could save one plane. He couldn't do everything but he could do something. So he did it.

God does big things with small deeds.

Against a towering giant, a brook pebble seemed futile. But God used it to topple Goliath.

Compared to the tithes of the wealthy, a widow's coins seemed puny. But Jesus used them to inspire us. And in contrast with sophisticated priests and powerful Roman rulers, a cross suspended carpenter seemed nothing but a waste of life. Few Jewish leaders mourned his death. Only a handful of friends buried his body. The people turned their attention back to the temple. Why not?

What power does a buried rabbi have? We know the answer. Power to tear away death rags and push away death rocks. Power to change history. In the hands of God, small seeds grow into sheltering trees. Tiny leaven expands into nourishing loaves.

Small seeds can change the world. Sow the mustard seed. Bury the leaven lump. Make the call. Write the check. Organise the committee.

Moses had a staff.

David had a sling.

Samson had a jaw bone.

Rahab had a string.

Mary had some ointment.

Aaron had a rod.

Dorcas had a needle.

All were used by God.

What do you have?

God inhabits the tiny seed, empowers the tiny deed.

He cures the common life by giving no common life, by offering no common gifts. "Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as you ever can." (John Wesley)

Don't discount the smallest of your deeds.



Why the shoes? Andy T suggested that every time we took off our shoes during the week, it would remind us to consider how much we might give in, for gift day.