

# **GIVING - 12 MAY**

## **PSALM 112**

### **Introduction**

Q - Were you able to practice anything that came out of your last life group meeting?

Q - Do you remember anything from Sunday's talk that struck you?

Q - What is your first reaction when we talk about giving in church?

### **Context**

Regarded to be a pair with Ps 111. Both Psalms are acrostic (alphabetical in Hebrew) and have 22 clauses in 10 lines - each clause starts with the next letter of the Hebrew alphabet.

### **Please read Psalm 112 together**

Q - What is the first thing that stands out to you? Which verse speaks to you?

Verse 1 starts with the main idea that he'll then unpack, there are a few words we might want to pay attention to:

'Blessed': means happiness, well-being, and contentment.

'Fear the Lord': this phrase is used a lot in the Bible, it means reverential awe, respect, and a sense of deep submission to His authority.

Q - Do you feel you 'fear the Lord' (as explained above)?

Q - Do you find 'delight' in following God's commandments?

### **Please look at verses 2-5 (the heart of the Psalm)**

Q - Why are their 'children' also blessed?

Verse 3 talks about 'wealth and riches' which is something material, financial prosperity, abundance. As a church we don't follow the 'prosperity gospel' but we do believe that God helps us prosper and provides for us.

Q - Discuss as a group what does it mean that God prospers us and provides, whilst not following a prosperity gospel?

(side note: by 'prosperity gospel' I mean a theological belief that if you're in 'good terms' with God, then he will necessarily prosper you financially. In some cases, the belief that

giving to a church or ministry will necessarily mean that God will give back to you financially more than you gave).

Q – What should be our attitude when giving? (to church, a charity or mission)

Verse 5 says “Good will come to those who are generous and lend freely, who conduct their affairs with justice”.

Q – Do you consider yourself as being generous? In what ways are you generous? In what ways you feel you aren’t generous?

### **Please look at verses 6-10**

Looking at verse 6-10, again there are expressions of the benefits of knowing God. We aren’t as shaken or fearful because we trust in the Lord. There is also an assumption that we will “have freely scattered their gifts to the poor”.

As a church we invest a significant amount on our finances on external mission, local mission (evangelism) and in our St Barnabas Community Hub (CAP, TLG, hosting loads of charities, etc). Thanks so much for your support and all you do to make this happen.

Q – What are your thoughts and practices (no need to share numbers!!) on giving to church and ministries/charities that support those in need?

Q – Does this Psalm challenge you to do anything differently? If so, what?

The call to be generous is because our God is generous, and we want to ‘be like Jesus’.

Q – In what ways do you see God’s generosity? Why do you affirm that God is generous?

Q – What is stopping you from being more generous?

### **Prayer**

The passage talks about those fearing the Lord being righteous, delighting in his commands, blessed, gracious, compassionate, generous, just, secure, trusting in the Lord, with honour. This is the fruit of putting of faith in Jesus and letting the Spirit transform us.

Spend some time in prayer asking God to create in us a gracious, generous, and compassionate heart.

**Nico Ohlsson**