

Luke 6:27-38

²⁷“But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. ³⁰Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. ³¹Do to others as you would have them do to you. ³²“If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. ³⁵But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. ³⁶Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

³⁷“Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; ³⁸give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

There are some things which we hear that stay with us for many years. When I started Circuit ministry back in 1990 – in the last century – I was in the Eastern Valley in South Wales. A valley that stretched from Blaenavon in the North to Pontypool in the South; a mining valley was its past but most mining had stopped.

There was an elderly local preacher called Ted Moreton, who was from Blaenavon and was of mining stock. He preached without notes, leaning on the pulpit and speaking of his faith in Jesus and the faithfulness of God.

I remember hearing him “misquote” a verse from Ecclesiastes. It is meant to say Ecclesiastes 11:1 Cast your bread upon the waters, For you will find it after many days.

Ted’s version went, “Cast you bread upon the water and it will come back to you as a currant bun.” Luke 6:38 which we just read reminded me of Ted, his faith, his experience of God and his “misquote”.

We have a generous God who can never be out given. He invites us to give ourselves completely to him, in faith and in service for he has given himself completely to us in Jesus. We are told “do not put the Lord your God to the test,” but as we give to God he will give abundantly to us. The Lord loves a generous and cheerful giver.

2 Corinthians 9:6-7

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows **generously** will also reap **generously**. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a **cheerful** giver.

As we live out our faith God encourages us to share the gifts, talents and resources we have generously and without judgement of others.

Let us give generously and enjoy a few more currant buns.