

# Living Generously: A Life of Abundance

- **Introduction:**

- The speaker is the Generous Giving Advisor for the Diocese of York, focusing on inspiring generous living.
- Emphasis on using God-given skills, time, values, and resources generously.
- Personal experiences of working in education, poverty alleviation, and with marginalized communities inform the speaker's perspective.

- **Biblical Reflection:**

- **Luke 13:1-9:** The parable of the barren fig tree highlights patience, forgiveness, and the opportunity for growth through nurture and care.
- **Isaiah 55:1-9:** An invitation to receive God's blessings freely and trust in His provision, encouraging generosity without fear.

- **Three Ways to Live Generously:**

- **Be Patient and Forgiving:** Like the gardener, offer second chances and nurture others.
- **Share Resources Freely:** Trust God's provision and share blessings, reflecting God's abundance.
- **Embrace God's Ways:** Accept unexpected answers to prayers, recognizing that God's plans often surpass our understanding.

- **Generosity as a Kingdom-Focus:**

- Living with open hands, trusting God, and releasing fear of scarcity.
- Recognizing our gifts and encouraging others in their God-given talents.

- **Practical Application:**

- Encourage participation in ministries, church activities, and community service.
- Consider financial giving through the Parish Giving Scheme as an act of worship.
- Support the church's future through intentional, joyful giving.

- **Conclusion:**

- Generosity reflects God's love and can transform individuals and communities.
- Gratitude is expressed to those already giving and encouragement is extended to consider new ways of living generously.
- A final prayer invites God's wisdom and inspiration for a lifelong journey of generosity.

Questions:

1. **Isaiah 55:1-9 invites us to “come to the waters” and receive freely.** How does this passage challenge the way we think about generosity and abundance in our own lives?
2. **In Luke 13:1-9, the gardener asks for more time to nurture the fig tree.** What does this teach us about patience and second chances in our relationships and community?
3. **The talk emphasises whole-life generosity — not just giving money, but also time, skills, and prayer.** How can we identify and offer our gifts in the service of others?
4. **Trusting in God’s provision was a recurring theme in both passages.** When have you experienced the challenge of trusting God in uncertain times? What was the result?
5. **The speaker highlighted the importance of encouraging others in their gifts.** How can we become better at recognising and nurturing the gifts in those around us?
6. **Reflecting on the parable of the fig tree,** what areas in our personal lives or church community might need extra care, patience, or renewal? How can we be part of that growth?