



Week 4

Sunday 13 September 2026

TODAY'S 9:30AM SERVICE

- Welcome
- Songs
- Confession & Assurance
- Song
- Spotlight
- Prayer for Children
- Bible Reading: Isaiah 58:1-9 (p.740) & 2 Cor 8:1-9 (p.1161)
- Sermon
- Song
- Prayers
- Vision Spot
- Song
- Conclusion

Most St Stephen's collection is received electronically.

BSB: 062 272

Account Number:
00490436

If you are a visitor please don't feel obliged to contribute financially.

Welcome! We're glad you're here as we continue Generosity: God's good plan for the stuff you have. This week we're asking: Who receives my generosity? It's easy to be generous when someone seems deserving—when we like like them, when they have made good choices, or when we can see how our gift will make a difference. But Jesus' generosity is far more surprising. In Luke 19, Zacchaeus responds to Jesus with extravagant generosity. The man everyone had written off discovers grace he could never earn, and that grace changes how he treats others. Paul reminds us that the Macedonian Christians gave generously despite their own circumstances. Their generosity flowed from the grace they had received.

The gospel turns our usual calculations upside down. We don't give only to the worthy. We give because we ourselves have received what we could never earn. We long to be made beautiful, diverse and large by the gracious work of Christ—a community whose generosity reaches beyond our natural circles to those who might never be on our list.



Connect Card

Next Steps

Are you new? Catch up with Prash or Jill to share your story and hear about St Stephen's church life.

Been regularly coming? If you are a regular member of our church, we encourage you to attend our next **Belonging Course** which runs on November 22 from 12-3pm. Belonging is the gateway to our GaP Groups, serving and deeper connection with the community. Or if you'd like to learn more sooner, you may also like to arrange a coffee with Prash or Jill. Simply reach out – they'd love to chat.

Prayers for the Service

Prayer is a privilege we have because of Christ's death and resurrection. Through him, we can confidently approach God for forgiveness (Hebrews 10:22). If you trust in Christ, please pray with us. If you are still exploring who Jesus is, feel free to listen in.

A Prayer of Confession

Lord God,
we have sinned against you;
we have done evil in your sight.
We are sorry and repent.
Have mercy on us according to your love.
Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us from our sin.
Renew a right spirit within us
and restore us to the joy of your salvation,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Words of Assurance

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.

2 Corinthians 8:9

The Lord's Prayer

This is the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples to pray (Matthew 6:5-14).

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever.
Amen.

Closing Prayer

Merciful Father,
whose Son became poor
that we through his poverty might become rich:
fill us with his compassion,
that we may gladly share with those in need,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Sermon Notes

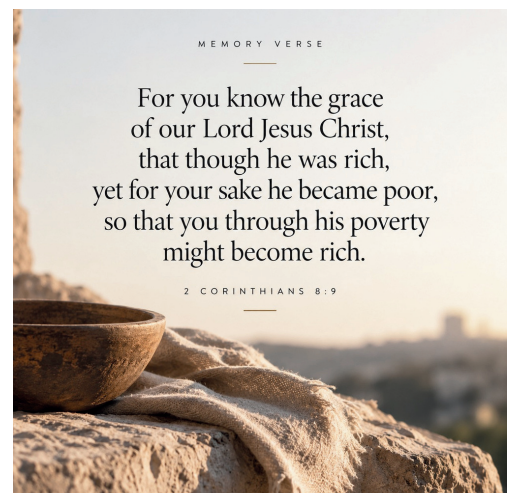
Suprising Generosity | 2 Corinthians 8:1-9 & Isaiah 58:1-9

Preacher: Prashanth Colombage

Suprising Generosity

Rules cannot compel generosity

The graciousness of Jesus



Gospel and Prayer (GaP) Group Study

Opening Reflection

Think of someone you find easy to be generous to. Think of someone you find it very hard to be generous to. Discuss why that's the case.

Going deep in God's Word

Read Luke 19:1-10

1. What do we learn about Zacchaeus and the way people viewed him (v. 1-4)? Why do you think Jesus' decision to eat with him cause such a strong reaction?

2. List out all that happens to Zacchaeus after Jesus welcomes him (v. 8-10). What's the connection between receiving the grace of Jesus and becoming generous?

Read Luke 14:12-14

3. What is different about the generosity Jesus calls for here? How is this challenge our culture's transactional way of generosity based on reciprocity (ie. "I'll do something for you because you do something for me.")

Read Deuteronomy 15:7-11

4. What does this passage reveal about God's attitude towards the poor? How should knowing God's love for the poor shape how we use our resources?

Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-9

5. What's surprising about the generosity of the Macedonian Christians (v. 2-4)?

6. How does the generosity of Jesus provide both the model and the motivation for your generosity?

🙏 Praying big prayers shaped by the gospel

In light of God's word, reflect and pray together using the following questions as aids:

1. Who are "unlikely objects" of generosity in your life? Is there someone God might be challenging you to be surprisingly generous towards?

(ie. Think of people who can't repay you, have less than you, are socially isolated, are difficult to love, have made foolish decisions, are different from you/don't belong in your 'circle')

2. What makes surprising generosity difficult for you? Consider what might be a default hardness in your heart:

- Reciprocity: What will I get back?
- Merit: Do they deserve my help?
- Convenience: Do I really have the time?
- Suspicion: Why don't they just help themselves?
- Fear: What if I don't have enough?
- Self-protection: I've already done enough for them.

3. If Jesus has been generous to us, what might surprising generosity look like for you this week (be specific)? Spend time thanking God, confessing our failures in this area, asking for His grace to transform our heart, and for one person you're challenged to show generosity to this week.

Spend time with God each day!

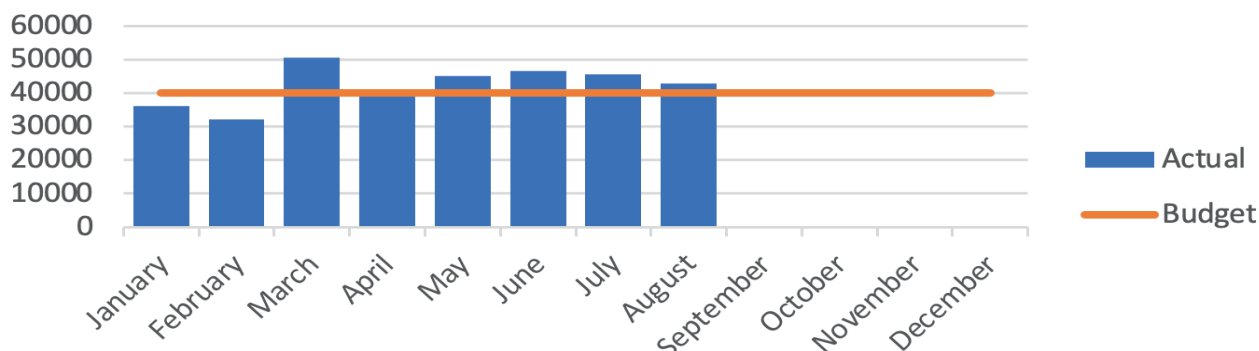
As we think about generosity from the Bible this month, read through these passages using the questions to help you.

1. What does this teach me about God and the things He has given me?
2. When I lose sight of God as the giver and owner of everything I have, how am I tempted to respond with fear, control or selfishness?
3. Because everything I have is from God, what is one way I can faithfully steward His gifts today?

Monday – Deuteronomy 15:7-11
Tuesday – Luke 14:1-14
Wednesday – Luke 19:1-10
Thursday – 2 Corinthians 8:1-7
Friday – 2 Corinthians 8:8-15

Notices

Monthly Finance Update



Thank you to those who have financially supported ministry this year. We continue to be on track for our budget which will allow us to plan for more ministry and mission opportunities next year. If you would like to partner financially with us visit st-stephens.com.au/give

Join a GaP Group and grow!

“Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.”

— James 1:22



Sunday is just the beginning of our week. In our GaP Groups, we push deeper into the Bible passage we hear preached on Sunday — reflecting together on personal questions that help us see where we need to repent, trust Jesus and grow.



If you're not yet part of a GaP Group, fill out a Connect Card today and we'd love to help you find one.

Join a GaP Group

Notices

All-In Training

All In Training is about growing together because what we do matters. Every team plays a part in helping people know Jesus. Come ready to learn, grow, be equipped, and contribute with confidence in serving others well.



Friday Kids Is Growing!

Friday Kids is growing! We had 23 kids this week, including 14 on the walking bus—what an encouragement! We're especially thankful to see more girls joining us, an answer to prayer, and it's a joy to share Jesus with so many local kids each Friday.



What's Coming Up

14 September Alpha
15 September Playtime Alpha
17 September Encounter
20 September All-In Training
27 September MTS Afternoon Tea

For more on what's happening this winter at St Stephen's, visit
st-stephens.com.au/spring

Our Staff - Contact Us!



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