

Talk on the Rich Farmer SJP Harvest 5th October 2014 Generosity

Harvest festival is the time when we remember *everything* that God has given us – food – house -parents

HAS ANYONE COME HERE WITHOUT FOOD Today? No house? No parents? No friends?

1. **GOD'S GENEROSITY:** Stations of *Experience Harvest* around the church show us what the varied places where we reap our harvests – ANY CHILDREN REMEMBER? (Grain, Garden, Earth, Flock or herd, Ocean or river) [we only have to look outside our doors to see the WONDER of harvest. These things are good and healthy. God loves to give. God is a generous God. **WHO MAKES THE CROPS GROW IN THE FIELDS? WHY IS GOD GENEROUS?**
 - God loves us so much we receive more than we need just like the farmer. Jesus says DON'T WORRY.

RESPONDING TO GOD. Be THANKFUL TO GOD – not like the Farmer who deceived himself it was his harvest

The gifts that we bring to the front at harvest and the money we put in our collections, is a THANKYOU to God for all the good things we receive

Giving this food to God is part of our practical WORSHIP today and we can thank God at EACH mealtime to remind us.

2. **HOW GENEROUS ARE WE?** Do we share things? “**Real life is not measured by how much we own**” (v15 This means that we need to be GENEROUS like God and SHARE what He gave us.
We become *keepers* NOT *owners* of what we are given by God,. We keep just enough for ourselves and make sure we away the rest away to those with little.

Zambia When I lived in Africa in a city, we used to run out of salt, flour for making bread and fish

One person searched for a hard of these essential commodities~

One person would find and buy a whole sack of flour or a whole box of fish and share it with the rest of us

Get where produced before greedy marketeers bought it all and put up the prices.

SHARING was essential for life! When we are not generous God thinks we are poor.

3. NOT HANGING ON TO GOD'S GIFTS. The farmer was told “**This night your life will be taken from you - who will get what you have prepared for yourself?**”. We cannot make our lives longer by hanging onto things. We may well die before we are able to enjoy . We might say that we can leave it for our children but they need to share your wealth as well. Getting a good start in life is for everyone not just the well off. We are relatively well off compared with $\frac{3}{4}$ of the world.

TRAIDCRAFT is a way of trying to be **FAIR** with the way that we receive things from God. When we buy our tea and coffee and bananas and soap and timber and sugar, often the price that is given to the actual farmers is not enough for them to live on and they become very poor and unable to send their children to school and they can get hungry and fall ill more

easily.

If we do not pay a proper price, we are STEALING from them.

Jesus said “**where your treasure is your heart will be also**”

.Please do 3 things to get the best **TREASURE**

1. Remember to be thankful and count our blessings from God every day. How many blessings in your past week?

2. Think about sharing something with the food bank regularly who have a list of things that they need to give out to those who are in need in our community now. **OR** get a shoebox for **Samaritans Purse** and put it in Simon’s collecting box up and bring boxes for beginning of December.

3. To buy something from Traidcraft regularly so that they get more money to send their children to school to get a good start in life. It may seem more expensive than SPAR or even Waitrose, but does that help the poor?

We can all do something like this and our **GENEROSITY** and **SHARING** will make us feel good.