

Lent Week 2: Goodness/ Generosity

One of the Fruit of the Spirit listed in Galatians 5 can be translated as either 'goodness' or 'generosity'. It is this latter translation that I would us to reflect on briefly.

In Matthew 26:6-13, we encounter the beautiful story of a woman who anoints Jesus with expensive perfume. The disciples, seeing the value of the gift, criticize her for wasting such a costly item. But Jesus responds with words that challenge our understanding of generosity: "Why do you trouble the woman? She has done a beautiful thing to me."

This act of generosity was not measured by the value of the perfume, even though it was very expensive, but by the love and devotion behind it. The woman gave from the heart, offering something precious to honour Jesus, even when others didn't understand.

Generosity is not always about quantity or what we have left over; it is about the spirit of the gift. It's about offering what we hold dear to God, knowing that no act of love, no matter how small, is ever wasted in His eyes.

As we reflect on this passage, we are reminded that generosity comes from the heart, not from the size of the gift. What we offer, whether it's time, resources, or love, should reflect our commitment to Jesus, just as this woman's act did. Let us be generous not just with our money and possessions, but with our hearts, offering the best of what we have to honour God.

I wonder what might that look like for you this Lent?