

REFLECTION - 4



"Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously." (2 Corinthians 9:6)

Generosity is something that lies in the very heart of God. The creation of all things; the coming of God in Jesus to share in the fullness of our human life; the sending of the Holy Spirit – all of these are acts of generosity on the part of God. The question to each of us centres around our response to God's generosity.

Paul uses an example from agriculture to make this point. He knows that God sows generously and encourages us to do the same. But he contrasts it with those who sow sparingly. For those sowing crops a thin sprinkling of seeds with produce a disappointing harvest. But a generous sowing produces an abundant crop.

God's abundant generosity should spur us on to be generous ourselves – generous to God and generous to others. And that generosity should touch all parts of our life. How we spend our money; how we allocate our time; how we use our gifts – all should be given generously.

But there is more. We need to be generous with our thanks, with our praise and with our kindness. All of this will help others to feel better and get a sense of how much they are loved by God. In contrast we should be very sparing with our criticism, our complaining and our rebukes. God knows our failures and our sins and yet goes on loving and forgiving us so we should do the same.

God's generosity knows no limits and our response can only be a pale imitation. But respond we must and as we do so we should follow Paul's advice and sow generously.



Diolch yn fawr Archdeacon Jonathan Williams!