Sermon: **Are you jealous because I am generous**? (Matthew 20.15)

The Will is being read – the money goes the ‘wrong way’. Money can divide people – families with someone who spends all the money or unfairly restricts money to others, treasurers who abscond with all the money, benefit cheats, CEOs who award themselves massive pay rises. Tax rises or cuts can break a political party’s chances at an election.

Early Church story (from Acts 4.34 to 5.2) – Christians giving their money to the church, but Ananias & Sapphira keeping part back secretly. Was this jealousy with respect to Barnabas? TEXT.

Is the Parable of Workers in the Vineyard about money? (Monetary equality; The Opportunity Party want to give $200 to each youth aged 18-23). It is really about generosity. Religious folk presumed that their morality, dedication and financial commitment to God would put them in God’s favour.
Understandable given Laws that offer blessings for appropriate sacrifices.

Jesus claims God offers the same to all irrespective of effort, based only on willingness to accept the Kingdom of God. So those who embrace the Kingdom late in life receive the same as those who have spent whole life there. Does this annoy you in any way? TEXT.

But imagine a worker who agrees to work but stays put - would they have got a silver coin?

It is not just about embracing the Kingdom in our heads, but also in our actions – giving of money, time and effort.

What is the best motivation for why we do this – not because someone badgers us, or we feel guilty, or we feel like it, or we like God’s people, even because we see the work that needs doing.

Best motivation is experiencing God’s generosity. Our response is not TEXT, but a spirit of generosity ourselves. And that will drive our giving of money, time and effort, especially when other motivations falter or fail.