



NEWCASTLE DIOCESE GENEROSITY WEEK 2025

Sermon Starter

Sunday 28th September
1 Timothy 6: 6-19

‘Walk the Other Way’

1 Timothy 6: 6-19

6 But godliness with contentment is great gain. 7 For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. 8 But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. 9 Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. 10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

11 But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. 12 Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses. 13 In the sight of God, who gives life to everything, and of Christ Jesus, who while testifying before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you 14 to keep this command without spot or blame until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, 15 which God will bring about in his own time – God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, 16 who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. To him be honour and might for ever. Amen.

17 Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. 18 Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. 19 In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.



Notes

If possible, start with a story where you or a close friend have noted people facing danger for the benefit of others. This could be a story from any of the emergency or rescue services. Point out that whilst most of us try to walk away from danger, emergency services personnel deliberately walk in to danger.

Paul is telling Timothy to live differently from the way most people do, to take on values and lifestyle which is the opposite to the way most people behave. Whereas most people try to keep the money they have, and to try and get more money, Paul says “flee from that approach” (v11) – quite strong words, and to do the exact opposite. To be rich in good deeds, generous and willing to share (v18).

Acknowledge the current cost of living crisis and ask how we can relate Paul's words to this time of difficulty. Mention the widow and her 2 small coins who “gave all she had to live on” (Mark 12: 41-43). Also to refer to Paul's personal statement about learning how to live both in times of plenty and scarcity / difficulty (Philippians 4: 12). And finally mention the words of Jesus that his followers would remain in the world, but not be “of the world”. This means that whilst we experience the same circumstances, including pain and hardship as those around us, (we remain “in the world”) we don't respond the same way (we are not “of the world”).

Why should we respond differently to everyone else? Why should we take on these different values of generosity and sharing when everyone else is just trying to keep what they've got? Firstly because we are people of faith. Paul addresses Timothy as “Man of God” (v11). That is Paul's lead-in to encouraging Timothy and all of us to this differently life-style.

And secondly to be like Jesus. He walked in to a hurting world, laying outside his glory, to save us. Likewise, we too must leave behind our security and live for others, being rich in our generosity and giving.

Stress we can't tell people how much we should give, but finish with an appeal to live by faith and “walk the other way”, giving some examples of what this might mean in practice, eg commit to yearly private, honest and prayerful reviews of the amount we give to our Church, finishing our appeal by repeating v19.

