

2 Corinthians 9: 6 - end & Matthew 13: 1 - 9 **Notes for home groups** Sunday 7 October 2018

Sunday series '**Come and See**' Theme – '**Ears to hear**'

Read 2 Corinthians 9: 6 – end

Let us first consider God's generosity.

1. I'm sure most of us feel blessed by God and the generosity of his grace.

1a. Do you think God is equally generous to all or does he use some measure of relativity or merit?

1b. Theologians speak of God's grace being manifested in two ways, there is 'common grace' and 'saving grace'. What do you think this means? Can you identify the difference between the two? (reading Matt. 5: 44-45 & 13: 24-30 will help).

2. God is generous, and we in turn are to be generous.

2a. In today's world where most of the population have little and a small minority have much, what do verses 8 – 11 have to say? How and where do we fit into this picture and teaching?

2b. Verses 12-13. Can you think of ways in which our acts of service and generosity can be identified as coming from God and not from ourselves?

2c. In response to a need (say a disaster) to which a number of charities are responding, what reason might there be for the church to decide to donate through a Christian charity rather than a secular one? Would this always be a sound decision by the church?

Read Matthew 13: 1 – 9

3. Today's world seems to require us all to be busier than ever, providing more and more distractions and opportunities. We are clearly called to be sowers of the gospel seed, but to an audience who are too busy to listen or watch.

3a. What everyday occasions or events might provide the time and opportunity to sow seeds to these busy folk?

3b. What particular age group would you think are most likely to be 'good soil'? Why this age group?

3c. Does age have anything to do with being 'good soil'? If not age, then what criteria would you choose for most suitable group? Or is grouping completely inappropriate?

4. Some seeds fell on shallow soil, and some where thorns choked growth.

4a. What sort of things must a Christian do, having sown seed, to prevent thorns growing up to choke growth of this new seed?