

July Sermon Series: *The Joy of Giving*

Throughout July, I want us to reflect on the joy and privilege it is to give. Out of the abundance that God has given to us, we are invited to give generously as an *investment in the Gospel*, as *partners in ministry*, as a demonstration of *Christian discipleship*, and as a way of *celebrating God's grace*.

#1 Investing in Eternity Luke 12:13 – 21

(I am indebted to Pastor Matt Kang for some of the reflections contained in this devotional).

A Prayer: As we approach God's Word, pray –

Gracious God, giver of all good gifts, as I open the Scriptures, I ask

What I know not, Lord teach me;

What I have not, Lord give me;

What I am not, Lord make me,

All for your glory, in Jesus' name.

Amen.

Read: Luke 12:13 – 21

Reflection:

Sometimes I think we have a confused understanding of wealth, seeing it either as a sign of God's blessing and a promise to be grasped (witness some of the excesses of the "prosperity gospel"); or considering it to be evil (witness the **misquoting** of 1 Timothy 6:10).

Jesus' "parable of the rich fool" in Luke 12 helps us to put money and wealth into a Gospel perspective. The rich man finds himself with a bumper harvest – God has indeed blessed him. What will he do with this excessive material blessing? He could share his abundance with those in need; giving generously to others. OR, he could choose to hold it all for himself. Sadly we see that he chose the latter.

Jesus' warning comes very clear to us in v 15: "*Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.*" Jesus' condemnation of the rich fool is not that he had wealth, but that he chose to hoard it for himself, seeing possessions as an indicator of success, importance, meaning and value, rather than see his relationship with God as ultimate value and purpose. In Jesus' words, he chose to store up things for himself, rather than to be "rich towards God".

He missed a great opportunity to invest in eternity by being a generous giver, mirroring the generosity of God. This parable challenges us to see our possessions as opportunities to allow God to bless others by our sacrificial and generous giving: investing in something of eternal value.

Pray: *O Lord my God, thank you for all the blessings you have given me.*

Thank you that my life's meaning and purpose is found in you.

Lord, help me to be an investor in eternity as I give out of my abundance, for the sake of the Gospel, in Jesus' name. Amen.



Belrose Uniting Church
in the Assembly of Confessing Congregations
of the Uniting Church in Australia
Corner Forest Way and Morgan Road, Belrose

We aim TO KNOW CHRIST AND TO MAKE HIM KNOWN

Sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ to the world since 1916.

GOOD NEWS WEEKLY

Sunday 4th July 2021
Covid Lock Down Edition

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We find ourselves again in a covid-19 lockdown situation, unable to gather physically together for worship and fellowship; testing our faith, patience and resilience. Thankfully our identity as a Church is not based on a physical presence, but on the grace of God calling us to be His people. Certainly, physically meeting together is an important aspect of who we are, but in times of separation, we are still God's "*chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God*" (1 Peter 2:9). Praise God!!

Hopefully the lockdown restrictions will end on Friday 9th July, meaning that we will be able to meet for worship on Sunday 11th July. However, we await the Government's confirmation of this. I will keep you posted.

In the mean-time, I hope that you will take the opportunity to "**worship**" **online** with the various churches that are streaming their Sunday services, such as:

FF Baptist Church 9.30 am www.ffbc.org.au

St Faiths Narrabeen 9 am & 6 pm <https://stfaiths.church>

Pittwater UC 9.30 am & 6 pm <https://pittwater.online.church>

Wesley Mission 10.00 am www.wesleymission.org.au

St Matthews Manly 8am, 10am, 5pm & 6.30pm www.stmattsmarly.org.au/

May God bless you with peace, comfort and hope as we persevere in faith.

Ian Weeks

Want to know more about BUC? Contact:

Pastor: Rev Ian Weeks

(Ph) 9451 3916 (Mob) 0408 308 196

Wednesday – Monday (Tuesday off)

mail@belrose.unitingchurch.org.au

Church Website: <http://www.belrose.unitingchurch.org.au>

Prayer Requests: Prayer.team@belrose.unitingchurch.org.au



**We hope and pray that the covid restrictions
will be lifted to allow us to meet
Next Sunday 11th July 2021**

If so

The Lord's Supper will be celebrated.

**9.30 am Morning Church July Series: *The Joy of Giving
Giving as Gospel Partnership* Philippians 4:10 - 20**

Service Leader: Ian Weeks **Preacher:** Ian Weeks
Music: Allan Leslie **Reader:** Tova Swadling
Welcoming: Don & Chris Black
Morning Tea: Helen Meillon & Cherry Robinson
Flowers: Jan McGuire

**5.30 pm Responding to Jesus: *James, John & Bartimaeus*
Mark 10:35 - 52**

Service Leader: Ian Weeks **Preacher:** Rico Tice

July Mission of the Month: *The Bible Society*



The Bible Society is Australia's longest-living organization, over 200 years old!

The Bible Society is creating new ways to advocate for the Bible, to promote it, and offer people new ways to engage with it. Its vision is to see all people engaged with the Bible in a language they can understand, in a format they can use, and at a price they can afford.

The Bible Society is also the publisher of the monthly *Eternity* newspaper and owner of Koorong Bookstores. Check out the ***Bible Society & Eternity Magazines*** on the Church Foyer display unit.



MARK THE DATE:
**ACC National Conference Sept 9 – 11,
2021, Adelaide**
The Transforming Power of the Gospel
Book to attend in person or at home via Zoom:
<https://www.hopenetsa.org.au/conference/>

Check out the promo video:
https://youtu.be/V_IBxN9x_G8

Email ACC Office for more info:
accoffice@confessingcongregations.com

The Weekly Thursday Prayer Meetings are open to anyone who wants to come. We share prayer points, read and reflect upon a Psalm, moving us to praise God & to pray. All welcome, even to sit and just listen.

Next Prayer Meeting: Thurs 15th July at the Church at 7.30 pm.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- * Gordon Allan;
- * John Bishop
- * Marcia Schnabel
- * Jen Dinning
- * David Keiller
- * Matt Phillips
- * Gordon Richardson
- * Allison Pitt

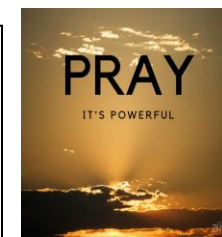
- * World: India's covid crisis; refugees & the persecuted Church
- * Those grieving the loss of loved ones; affected by disasters and covid-19.
- * Schools – for Scripture Classes at Mimosa (Mel Mottau) & Belrose (Ian Weeks) PS; and for Henri Simpson & his team at Davidson & The Forest High Schools.
- * Forest Kirk Congregation seeking a new Minister
- * Evangelistic opportunities to share the Gospel & vision for our future direction; pray for revival in our nation!

Have a prayer request?

- * Email: prayer.team@belrose.unitingchurch.org.au
- * Give to Rev. Ian or place a note in the prayer box near Church front door

Please pray for Rev Ian this week as he:

- * participates in a Minister's Vitality of Call consultation
- * organizes a funeral (not a church member)
- * prepares devotional material
- * participates in a Pastoral Relations Committee M'tg



WHAT'S ON @ BUC – Update your 2021 diaries
Property/room bookings to Denis Wall: deniswall30@gmail.com
Using the Church premises: Please turn off lights & air con, & lock up.

**Events in July 2021 – Mark your diary!
(Subject to Covid-19 Restrictions allowing)**

Thurs 15th July	Congregation Prayer Meeting	7.30 pm
Tues 20th July	Ladies Fellowship at BUC	12 Noon
Thurs 22nd July	Congregation Prayer Meeting	11 am
Sat 24th July	Forest Combined Churches Prayer Breakfast	7.45 am
Sun 25th July	Congregation Meeting at Morning Church	10.45 am
Thurs 29th July	Congregation Prayer Meeting	7.30 pm

NOTICE OF CONGREGATION MEETING to be held on **Sunday 25th July at 10.45 am** (after the morning service) **Agenda** will include: 2021/22 Budget; any other items as requested – let Cathie Browning know.