

Do you remember the ad on TV  
that went like this?

'Do you love someone enough to  
give them your last Rolo?'

I'm rather partial to a Rolo me  
and I'm going to be talking a lot about  
them this morning.

Let's pray  
*Father open hearts and our minds  
Open our ears help us to hear  
from you this morning. Amen*

There are two key words  
I want to draw your attention to, in this ad.  
**LOVE** and **GIVE**  
and ask you this question,

How much do you think GOD loves you?

Personally, I'm amazed by God's love  
and in John 3:16 a verse we know so well  
we read:

God So **LOVED** the world,  
that's you and me,  
that he **GAVE**  
gave his only son  
Who died for us

That is amazing love  
That's phenomenal generosity

And all because, He loves us

Another question, Do you,  
do I, love God enough, in return ....

to give him one of my Rolos?

Today I'm talking about giving  
Not giving  
in terms of our time or our talents

although everything I'm saying  
equally applies to them

But the regular giving of our money to God

And before you say oh,  
here we go again,  
CSK talking about money

the last time the subject  
of regular giving  
was addressed was early in 2019.

Oh, I know we've had a gift day since then  
but it's not the same thing at all  
that's like comparing giving someone  
a birthday present with budgeting  
your finances each month

I'm not talking about a one-off gift  
but our attitude  
to our budgeting behaviour,  
our regular giving  
to our Heavenly Father

And if this subject makes  
you feel uncomfortable  
please don't pick on me when we next meet  
take it up with God  
ask him why you feel like this

What do we mean regular giving?

Have you ever listened  
to your heart beating?  
There's a regular rhythm to it isn't there

Boom boom, boom boom

if our heartbeat slows down  
or if it becomes erratic  
we sure know about it

The regular giving  
of our money to God  
is an indication of the state  
of our spiritual heartbeat

Giving to God  
just when we remember  
or when we have a little left over  
doesn't help to keep us  
spiritually healthy

Most of us receive our income  
on a regular basis don't we  
We know roughly the day it hits  
our bank account  
and our planned giving should be  
just as regular

Rick Warren  
A respected Bible teacher, says  
*"giving is the essence of being like Jesus"*

In other words  
we are most like Jesus  
when we are giving

and we're are told in the letter to the Ephesians  
That we should copy, imitate Jesus

and I love how the Message puts it.....

*Observe how Christ loved us.  
His love was not cautious  
but extravagant.  
He didn't love  
in order to get something from us  
but to give everything of himself to us.  
Love like that.*

Back to our Rolos.

In the ad  
the man asks the cartoonist  
does she love me?  
Love you, he replies, she worships you  
and then she gives him her last Rolo

When we give,  
we are worshipping or  
I like to think of it as  
giving God his worth-ship  
How much is God worth to you?  
Because he didn't  
just give you his last Rolo  
He gave you the whole packet!

When we accept Jesus into our hearts  
we become joint heirs with Him

we are adopted by God to be his children.  
That's how much you're worth to him

So, how much is God worth to you?

I'm sometimes uncomfortable  
when out with friends at a restaurant  
when it comes to the tip  
at the end of the meal  
how much do you give?  
What change have I got?

Giving to God should  
not be like giving him a tip  
looking at what's left over  
with a "that'll do" attitude  
That's not giving God his worth-ship is it?

The Bible tells us  
that where our treasure is  
that's where our heart will be

my grandchildren have a toy  
which involves magnets  
you hold a coloured stick  
which has a magnet in it  
and before you are lots of coloured  
disks with metal rings around  
They remind me of coins  
and one of the ways to play  
is to see how many of these "coins"  
you can pick up at once

Money's like a magnet  
Because....wherever it is  
it pulls our heart

When we give to God  
it's also like a magnet  
but this time it pulls us closer to him  
giving draws us, you see,  
closer to the heart of God  
because it's an act of worth-ship  
And whenever we worship  
We are drawn closer to him  
Where's your heart  
being pulled this morning?  
Because where you prioritise your money,  
time, efforts, thinking, life

that's where your heart will be heading

And  
you cannot pull  
the wool over God's eyes  
He knows you, you see,  
he knows where your heart is  
where your treasure is  
where your priorities lie.

The rich young man  
in our reading today  
was privileged, wealthy,  
well educated  
But there was sense in which  
the young man only  
paid lip service to God.  
Oh, he desired, sought  
the assurance of eternal life  
but his heart, his trust, his priorities,  
were all in his wealth  
and possessions

so much so, that even face to face  
with Jesus who, the Bible tells us  
showed him such love  
and promised him treasure in heaven  
he couldn't let go  
he wouldn't trust Jesus

If I was sitting  
in your living room right now  
And asked – do you trust God?  
I wonder what your reply would be  
More than likely, 'Yes of course I do'.

The Bible tells us to  
trust Him with all our heart  
Trust him completely

And I wonder  
If Jesus looked  
at your bank statements  
would he be able to tell  
how important he is to you?

Would he be able to see how much  
You trust him

Now I cannot talk about giving  
and not mention tithing.  
The word tithe means 10%  
and throughout  
the Old Testament particularly,  
God's people gave 10%,  
a tithe of their income  
as an offering to God

Tithing today is still a very  
helpful method of regular giving  
and many plan  
their giving that way

It's interesting to note though  
we don't hear much about tithing  
In the New Testament  
so why might that be?

Well, it's not because believers  
weren't expected to give

No, I think maybe it's because  
that as believers they – we -

are supposed to be  
like Jesus  
and to be as generous  
in our giving  
as we possibly can be  
And for some  
that may mean  
Giving more than a 10%

I should point out  
That Bible teaches  
our giving to God should be  
in proportion to the  
material blessings  
we've been given

and God understands  
that for some, a 10% tithe might  
be a really difficult amount to find

whereas  
for others,  
well you don't need me to finish  
this sentence do you?

I said a few weeks ago I said  
that giving God a little from  
a comfortable way of life is  
not good enough

I'm going further this morning  
IT'S SHAMEFUL

How dare we take our pack of Rolos  
and say to God, here you can have a lick  
but I'm going to keep the rest for myself

Another quote from Rick Warren  
*"There are more promises in the Bible  
regarding giving than any other thing."*

He is so right,  
Once we learn to trust God  
To give him his worth-ship  
Then we discover  
We cannot out-give God

When we give to Him –  
he responds with such  
generosity, such blessing

Malachi tells us that  
when we give properly  
God opens the floodgates  
and pours out his blessing  
**You cannot out-give God**

In Phil 4  
Paul tells us that God will meet  
all our needs. ALL OUR NEEDS  
**You cannot out-give God**

And Jesus himself tells us in Luke  
Give and it will be given to you  
a good measure,  
pressed down, shaken together,  
and running over  
**You cannot out-give God**

So what about our giving to CSK

I believe that Peter and I  
have been led to worship at CSK  
It's our church  
And we want to be

part of the good work  
God is doing here don't you?  
I hope you do.  
CSK is faithful to the word of God  
Our leaders are Spirit-filled and prayerful  
CSK has a heart for the local community  
and sharing the gospel both here and  
further afield  
but it can't do all these things on  
fresh air.

You might think that  
Because CSK is part of the Church of England  
That you don't need to give much  
That the C of E is rolling in it  
They've got a warehouse full of Rolos tucked away  
WRONG  
As a church  
We do not give enough the diocese  
to even pay for Sylvia's salary,  
her pension, her housing  
And we're also blessed to have  
Rachel and Joel,  
I'm just saying

But to finish  
Is God worth your last Rolo?  
Oh I think he is

In fact, it's biblical to  
give him your first Rolo

You give God your first,  
If you give him your very best  
I'm confident  
You won't run out of Rolos

Do you trust Him?  
Yes?  
Good  
OK then take a look at your finances  
And let him speak to your heart

Now where did I put that packet?  
Ah - want one?