

On Generosity: **Biblical Reflections on God-centred Giving**

By Richard S Briggs

Review by Dennis Fancett

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An excellent short book from the soon to be Principal of Lindisfarne College of Theology, therefore with a strong scholarly base throughout.

After an introduction, 4 subsequent chapters look at how our giving is based on the foundation of first hearing from God (using Haggai 1), what we learn from the story of the manna, lessons from the parables of the talents (with a helpful analysis of the difference between Matthew's and Luke's accounts) concluding with an exploration of tithing and its complications.

My best quote is from Chapter 3 (on bread and manna): "You do not get a biblical understanding of giving by talking about giving, you get a biblical understanding of giving by talking first about God".

I wasn't entirely convinced by the assertion that tithing under the Mosaic law was only aimed at land owners and thus not something required of those on lower incomes (surely in those days everyone lived off the land?) but I completely agree with the analysis of the complications an over-simplistic approach brings and with the conclusion that whilst tithing is right for some, others should give more and there are some for whom it is appropriate to give less.

All in all, an excellent short book that can be read in an hour, but more benefit will be gained by stopping and meditating on each of the Bible passages explored, as the author encourages us to do.

This book is also available to loan from the [North East Religious Resource Centre](#)