**Never Tire of Doing What is Good**

**NOTES:**

**(Draft Sermon)**

*(Tell a personal story or give an example like the one below of something that you feel will just never get finished).*

I’m not great at DIY and decorating. It takes me a long time to get started on a project. What I dread most is the unexpected. You decide to strip the walls, smooth them down and paint them. One evening to strip the walls, one to smooth down and two coats of paint over two nights. Four nights. Simple!

But then you start taking the paper down and there’s four layers. It’s going to take forever. Then you’re scraping away and a large chunk of plaster falls off! Polyfilla won’t cover that - now I need a plasterer.

Is it just me or do you sometimes think *‘When will this be finished?’* Or worse, *‘Will this ever be finished?’*.

**Does it stop you from starting?** *(build empathy and agreement).*

**I’m glad I’m not alone.**

In October 2015, the United Nations announced the Sustainable Development Goals which build on the previous Millennium Development Goals1.

One key goal is this: **By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than $1.90 a day** (that’s £1.25 a day).

* 836 million people still live in extreme poverty (nearly 13 times as many as currently live in the UK).
* Around one in five persons in developing regions lives on less than $1.90 per day.
* The overwhelming majority of people living on less than $1.90 a day belong to two regions: Southern Asia and sub-Saharan Africa.
* High poverty rates are often found in small, fragile and conflict-affected countries.

**Is it really possible to eradicate extreme poverty in 15 years’ time?**

I would love to see that. I’d dedicate my life to see that.

**Wouldn’t you like to see that too?**

1 https://www.compassionuk.org/blogs/compassion-and-the-sustainable-development-goals/

I don’t think I need to give you lots of Bible verses about helping the poor and needy but perhaps just a couple *(read them, set the scene for each and establish confirmation that God wants us to help the poor).*

**NOTES:**

**Isaiah 58: 6-7**

*“Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen:*

*to loose the chains of injustice*

*and untie the cords of the yoke,*

*to set the oppressed free*

*and break every yoke?*

*7 Is it not to share your food with the hungry*

*and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter—*

*when you see the naked, to clothe them,*

*and not to turn* ***away from your own flesh and blood?***

**Amos 5: 24**

*But let justice roll on like a river,*

*righteousness like a never-failing stream!*

**Matthew 25: 40**

*“The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’”*

We know it’s right to help the poor. We know God has asked us to.

**What else does God say?**

**Galatians 6:9**

*Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.*

**Proverbs 19:17**

*Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the LORD,*

*and he will reward them for what they have done.*

So not only should we help the poor because God tells us to but it’s going to bring a reward when we do.

**So will this ever get done? Will we ever eradicate extreme poverty?**

I believe the answer is a resounding **‘YES’**. And do you know why? Because **you’re here**. The **Bride of Jesus Christ, His Church**, is here and ready to do all it can. Indeed you are already are doing it!

Have a look at this:

**NOTES:**

**PowerPoint**

*(Show the PowerPoint indicating the significant progress made. Be encouraged that whilst the numbers are still large with terrible consequences, the progress is outstanding.*

**So what can we make of this?**

The Bible texts and the evidence. You’re doing well; we’re making progress. **It’s a reason to celebrate.** Not because we’ve done it but because we’ve made a good start and can probably do better.

The message is **“Never tire of doing what is good”** (repeat this one line as often as possible throughout your talk).

**Can we commit to seeing this through?**

* If you sponsor a child, thank you.
* If you help the poor in other ways, keep up the good work.
* Can you commit now to keep on doing it?
* Can you commit to writing to your sponsored child and praying for them?
* Can you do more? Is 83p a day a sacrifice?

**What would the world look like if we all did a little more?**

* 53% of the UK population identify themselves as Christians
* 15% of UK adults go to church once a month (7.6m)
* 3% (1.6m) go at least 6 times a year
* The USA alone has 247m Christians

Whilst it’s over-simplistic, the impact would be huge if we all helped one family who live on $1.90 a day. And what if we could do even more and help two families or three?

It costs just 83p a day to sponsor a child.

We can eradicate extreme poverty in my lifetime!

**I’d love that. I want to see that. But I need your help. Those living in extreme poverty need your help.**

So as the Bible says, *“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.”*

**Never tire of doing what is good.**

On behalf of the many children helped by this church, a huge thank you. If you want to help a child then let me know but please, if you only remember one thing from this message let it be:

**NOTES:**

**Never tire of doing what is good.**

Thank you and may God bless you richly.

**NOTE: You might want to show a Compassion film before starting (3-5 mins). If you are thanking sponsors for what they’ve done, you can do that at the very start of the sermon by playing “Thank You” very loud (it’s just children thanking their sponsors and it’s lots of fun).**