

## **Sermon Given at the Anglican Parish of Kingscliff -St James Kingscliff & St Mark's Pottsville.**

**Readings:** Genesis 21: 8-21; Psalm 86: 1-10,16-17; Romans 6: 1-11; Mark 12:41-44

**Title:** Stewardship Program: The Widow's Mite and the 1% Dream

### **Introduction: The Vision**

Eleanor Roosevelt wisely said, *"the future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams."* What is our dream and our vision for our parish? It is simple yet profound: *to be a thriving Christ-centred community, welcoming to all.* We are not a club for the perfect; we are a hospital for the broken, a family for the lonely, and a beacon of light and hope in Kingscliff and Pottsville. We are called to be a 'beloved community' where the outsider becomes an insider, and where the weary find rest in the presence of Jesus, our Lord and our God.

But a vision without action is just a dream. That is why our mission is also clear: *'enabled by the Holy Spirit, we are to make a positive impact in our community.'* We do not do this in our own strength, but in the power of the Spirit who fills us, guides us, and emboldens us.

### **The Widow's Mite**

To understand how we do this, we must look at a story Jesus told in the Gospel today—the story of the Widow's Mite. In the temple, the rich were throwing in large sums, showing off their wealth. But Jesus pointed to a poor widow who put in two tiny coins, worth less than a penny.

Jesus said, *"Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on"* (Mark 12:43-44).

This is the note I want to leave with you today. God is not looking for our surplus; God is looking for our surrender. God is looking for the person who says, "Lord, I don't have much talent, I don't have much time, I don't have much treasure or money—but here is all I have and all I am."

It is in that moment of total surrender that the Holy Spirit does His greatest work.

### **The 1% Challenge**

Now, I want to challenge you to dream with me. Look at the map of our parish boundaries. Think of the homes, the schools, the businesses, the people. If we are to be a Christ-centred community making an impact, we must be intentional.

I am asking us to pray for a specific goal: that we might reach just 1% of the people who live within our parish boundaries.

Some of you might think, "1%? That's too small. That's not dreaming big!" But let me tell you, 1% of our parish is a massive number of souls. It represents hundreds of people who are currently walking without the hope and meaning that only Jesus can give.

If we can reach 1%—if we can see 1% of our neighbours come to know the salvation that Jesus offers—we will change the very fabric of the communities that God has called us to serve. And if we can reach 1%, we can reach 2%. But it starts with that first step of faith.

### **Leaving a Legacy**

Why are we doing this? We are doing this for the generations to come. We are building a legacy—not for ourselves, but for our children and our grandchildren. We are called to be good ancestors and to continue the Great Commission by our Lord to make disciples (Matt 28:18-20).

We are laying the foundation for a future where faith is vibrant, where love is active, and where the name of Jesus is known. We want to leave a legacy of faith that outlasts our own lives.

### **Creating Sacred and Beautiful Spaces**

We do this by creating spaces—physical and relational—that enable people to meet the living God. Whether it is through the beauty of our worship, the warmth of our welcome, or the kindness of our outreach, we are building spaces where walls come down and hearts open up.

We want to create environments where people don't just hear about God, but they experience His presence. Where they realize that the salvation Jesus offers isn't just a ticket to heaven, but a life-transforming relationship starting right now.

### **The Challenge: Dream Big, Voice It, and Crack It**

As we look to the future, I want to challenge you to do what Richard Scolyer, the recently deceased great Australian Doctor, said: *Dream big. Voice it. And give it a crack.*

Let us not be afraid to dream a dream that is bigger than our ability. Let us not be afraid to voice it—to tell others, to pray it out loud, to write it down. Because a dream that is kept silent is a dream that dies.

But we are not just dreamers; we are doers. We are called to 'give it a crack'. To step out in faith, to risk failure, to try something new. Because when we try something for God, even if we stumble, we are making an impact, and God will bless our efforts.

### **Conclusion and Prayer**

So, let us not hold back. Let us give God all we have and all we are—like that widow. Let us reach out to the 1% and pray that this year one person may come to faith. Let us leave a legacy. Let us create spaces for salvation. And let us dream so big that only God can get the credit.

Let us pray: **Heavenly Father, fill us with your Holy Spirit and lead our parish to reach those you are calling, leaving a lasting legacy of faith by creating spaces where people encounter your saving love. Give us the courage to dream boldly, offer all we have to you, and serve faithfully for your glory through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

*The Reverend Constantine Osuchukwu, AMDG, 21.06.2026*