

During this cold snap, I binge-watched the series “The Crown” from start to finish. I don’t really know how accurately the series portrayed Queen Elizabeth II and her family members. But I know I fascinated and had one burning question: What is up with Queen Elizabeth’s handbag?

I mean, she’s always got this handbag on her left arm. What does she need that is not provided for her? Why does she need a handbag? What’s she got in there, anyway? She doesn’t need a driver’s license or a passport or a credit card. She doesn’t need keys or coupons for milk or bread or tickets for the opera. Surely she doesn’t use the royal handbag for snacks for the grandchildren or discarded gum wrappers and ticket stubs from the movies. So, again, I ask: What’s up with the handbag?

I did a couple of quick internet searches and found out some fascinating things. The topic of what’s in her handbags has been asked a lot in Great Britain lately. (I guess there is currently no royal scandal topping the headlines, so they’ve resorted to discussing the handbag.) One English dude in the know wrote that the Queen signals her staff by the position and location of the handbag. Someone else wrote that she carries things most females carry—lipstick, compact mirror, reading glasses. She’s been seen pulling out those glasses and digging out a tube of lipstick to put on a fresh coat after dinner.

The Queen likes one certain designer for her handbags, all made of calf leather and lined with suede. She owns roughly 250 handbags, with an average cost of 1800 British pounds per handbag. That’s around \$2500 U.S. dollars, folks. Inside this costly handbag, the Queen keeps a five pound British note tucked into a pocket in the lining. That’s her weekly donation she drops into the offering basket at her Church of England. Five pounds equals \$6.45!

Twenty-five hundred dollars for a handbag. Six dollars and forty-five cents for the church. Let that disparity set in for a minute. Then, ask this question: Are we any different?

We spend outrageous amounts of money for things we think we need, for things that give us comfort and security. We’ll go out to eat or to a movie and even though we might shake our heads at how much it costs, we’ll still gladly give up the money for our momentary entertainment. We’ll buy the best of anything and everything. But when it comes to giving money to the church, we think our best is what we have left in our billfold. After all, God is so rich He owns the cattle on a thousand hills, why does He need my measly offering of \$6.45?

“Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse... ‘Test me in this,’ says the Lord Almighty, ‘and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it,’” (Malachi 3:10).

Dear Ones, may we all begin outgiving the Queen!