

The Widow's Mite (Might) Mark 12:41-44

Jesus positioned himself in such a way that He could scan the faces of those who were casting their offerings in the temple treasury. The Lord immediately drew the attention of his disciples to a poor widow who had cast in two mites. Yes, there were many rich and famous temple goers who were casting offerings that would have raised the eyebrows of many, but the widow's two mites had caught the eye of the master; and Jesus honors this woman who had worshipped God by bringing her generous gift to the temple. What the world would have considered an insignificant offering, the Lord highlights, and teaches his disciples a lesson in giving.

Why would Jesus praise this woman and her gift? Well, to begin with, we need to take into consideration that the one who applauds this woman is the one who had given up all of his heavenly glory and was willing to offer himself as a sacrifice for the sins of mankind. Jesus could very well identify with one who was willing to give everything without retaining anything for her own use. Besides that, Jesus was in a position to evaluate every giver, based not just on the portion but also on proportion. In the sight of Christ, what made her very important was not the amount that she had cast into the temple treasury, but rather what she had held back for own needs. Listen to the words of Jesus "Verily I say unto you, that this poor widow hath cast more in that all they which have cast into the treasury. For all they did cast in of their abundance, but she of her want did cast in all that she had, even all her living."

Jesus applauded her for her interest in the treasury, for that represented an interest in the Lord and a concern for his work. This

widow evidently went to the temple periodically and gave for the Lord's work. When she gave she very well knew that it was for the Lord's personnel, for the maintenance of the temple and for provision for the sacrifices. We cannot forget that giving promotes the work of the Lord and the advancement of the kingdom of God. The Lord definitely honors an interest in the treasury. We should occasionally ask ourselves "How interested am I in giving for the Lord's work?" Our record of giving will disclose our interest in this matter.

It's not only what meets the eye that matters:

When it comes to giving, or when we do anything for the Kingdom of God, for that matter, what really matters is not how much you give, but why you did what you did for the kingdom of God. In other words, for the Lord our motives are very important and we need to be governed by the same principles.

Sitting in a strategic location, Jesus observed the givers. He saw those who wanted to be seen for their giving; the pomp, the scene and the clang that was made before the offering itself was given. Jesus saw those who gave, but more than merely observing who gave, he saw why they gave. The poor widow's giving was admirable not because of its size, but because of the spirit in which it was given. She gave because she wanted to honor the Lord, not to be noticed or heard by others. Yes, even today the Lord continues to examine the motives for our giving. Why do we give? What is the motivating factor behind our giving? Is it guilt, self righteousness, or ostentation? The Lord is never pleased with an offering that is made with an ulterior motive. The proper motive is to give out of love for the Lord Jesus Christ. One will never be satisfied if he gives with wrong intentions. One can never buy God with their offerings or gifts. Yes, Jesus honors unselfish giving!

Those who like to parade their gifts for show will have to work harder to have a bigger and better show the next time.

Sacrificial Giving:

No one prompted this widow to put in her mite. The thought of giving began in her heart. She had a giving spirit before she ever gave a gift. Her giving was not based on her ability but rather on her desire to give to the Lord. Sacrificial giving always originates with a great desire to give. Sacrificial giving results in a personal relinquishment of one's own property and resources. What she presented to the treasury was very costly as the Lord said, "She out of her poverty gave it all". As the people cast their contributions and gifts into the temple treasury the coins made a lot of noise depending on the amount that was cast in. But that day the widow's mite made such a great noise that it reached heaven, and the giver of all gifts put his seal of approval on it. The mite still rings even today as people read and talk about her. Indeed, it is not just the widow's mite, but her MIGHT in giving that was exhibited, and will continue to ring throughout eternity.