

Jesus Reveals the True Measure of Giving (Luke 21: 1-4)

Luke 21:1-4

- ¹ And He looked up and saw the rich **putting** their gifts into the treasury,
² and He saw also a certain poor widow **putting** in two mites.
³ So He said, "Truly I say to you that this poor widow has **put** in more than all;
⁴ "for all these out of their abundance have **put** in offerings for God, but she out of her poverty **put** in all the livelihood that she had."

Mark 12:41-44

- ⁴¹ Now Jesus sat opposite the treasury and saw how the people put money into the treasury. And many *who were* rich put in much.
⁴² Then one poor widow came and threw in two mites, which make a quadrans.
⁴³ So He called His disciples to *Himself* and said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all those who have given to the treasury; ⁴⁴ "for they all put in out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all that she had, her whole livelihood."

1. Jesus Compares Two _____ of Givers

a. Rich Givers

¹ And He looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the treasury,

OBSERVATIONS:

- There **are** rich people – those that have ample
- There are rich people that are **giving**
- There are rich people that are giving **gifts** – non-obligatory
- There are rich people that are giving **much** (Mark 12:41)
- These rich are giving to the **treasury-box** in the temple area
- This is an ongoing activity that can be **seen** by others

b. A Destitute Widow

² and He saw also a certain poor widow putting in two mites.

OBSERVATIONS:

- There are poor people – this widow is **very, very** poor
- There are poor people that are **giving**
- This poor widow is also giving to the **treasury-box** in the temple area
- This poor widow gave two **mites**
Greek **two lepta**, which make a *kodrantēs* (Latin *quadrans*), a Roman copper coin worth about 1/64 of a *denarius* (a day's wage for a laborer)

In our world, a laborer may make minimum wage.

$\$7.75 \times 8 \text{ hours} = \$62.00 \mid \$62.00 \div 64 = .96875 (< \$1.00)$

- This widow gave a very, very **small** amount!

2. Jesus Makes a _____ Statement

³ So He said, "Truly I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all"

OBSERVATIONS:

- Jesus resets reality: "truly"
- Jesus addresses his disciples (20:45; Mark 12:43)
- Jesus identifies who gave more than anyone: the widow!

How could this widow have given more than everyone else?

3. Jesus _____ His Statement

⁴ "for all these out of their abundance have put in offerings for God, but she out of her poverty put in all the livelihood that she had."

a. The _____ Giving of the Rich

⁴ "for all these out of their abundance have put in offerings for God,"

- What they gave out of – their abundance
- How they gave – some portion out of their riches

b. The _____ Giving of the Widow

"but she out of her poverty put in all the livelihood that she had."

- What she gave out of – her poverty
- How she gave – sacrificially, drastically
- What she gave: 100%

Principles:

1. Giving is not limited to the rich. _____ can give to God.
2. Giving is based upon what you _____, not what you don't have.
3. God measures us by what we _____ with what we _____.
4. You cannot evaluate others by the _____ they give.
5. We might give much, but may need to give _____ based upon what we have.
6. I might only be able to give very little, but God knows my _____.