

The Poor Widow: She Knew How to Give

- ⇒ **I. The story is simple, but profound.**
 - **See Mark 12:41-44**
 - **See Luke 21:1-4**
- ⇒ **II. Jesus was there to see this greatest of gifts given by men.**
 - The significance of this act of giving is shown by the fact that Jesus was there to see it.
 - God Himself witnesses this gift and commented on it.
 - His comment that "... **that this poor widow hath cast in more than they all: ...**" (**Luke 21:3**) marks this gift and its humble giver for all time and eternity.
 - Jesus saw rich men giving their gifts, but he did not comment at all on these.
 - A rich gift given by a rich man is no more noteworthy than a poor gift given by a poor man.
 - **I Corinthians 16:2a** instructs, "Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him,..."
 - The word "prospered" here means "endue."
 - We are expected to give in accordance with our means as God has enabled us.
- ⇒ **III. Showy Public gifts did not impress Jesus.**
 - The rich cast in their gifts publicly.
 - This impresses men, but God takes little notice of it except to comment.
 - **See Matthew 6:2-3**
 - Our giving is not for show, but to God.
 - It is not a religious act to be noted by men, but an expression of the heart.
- ⇒ **IV. What made this gift great was the sacrifice involved.**
 - The poor widow's two mites were small, but they were her all.
 - In weighing the importance of her gift, our Lord commented that – **See Luke 21:4**
 - Her sacrifice made her gift great.
- ⇒ **V. Thoughts on Giving.**
 - **1. Sacrifice pleases God** - In purchasing Ornan's threshing floor for an altar unto God, David said, **See I Chronicles 21:24.**
 - David would not give that which cost him nothing, but that which cost him dearly.
 - **2. Tithing alone does not please God**
 - The tithing is obedience to the law and no more.
 - We are commanded to **See Malachi 3:10.**
 - **3. Tithes and offering please God** –
 - Tithes are required by obedience, but offerings come from love.
 - **See 2 Corinthians 8:1-5**

- o Notice that the Macedonians gave over and above their means. Their giving went beyond tithes not out of duty, but because they
 - “...first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God.” (**2 Cor. 8:5**).
- o **4. The root of giving is gratitude –**
 - In Matthew 10:8, we are commanded, “...**freely ye have received, freely give.**”
 - Our giving should reflect both the reality of what we have receive and our gratitude for it.
- o **5. The attitude of giving is one of cheer –**
 - **See 2 Cor. 9:7**
 - Here is the attitude of a giver.
 - There is no pleasure, either God or for us, in a gift given grudgingly or out of duty.
 - But cheerfulness transforms our giving and makes God's love real to us.
 - You can never out give God – **See John 3:16.**