

# **Mark 12:41-44 – How man sees giving; How god sees giving**

TSK, GreekLexicon, Reinecker, Handfuls, JFB, Geneva, Clarke, Expositor, Family, Barnes, PNT, Poole, Family, Vincent, Robertson, Trapp, Henry, Gill Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: Jesus and his disciples were in the temple exposing the serious errors of the Pharisees, Sadducees, and scribes. These wicked leaders had misled the people by manipulating (操纵, 控制) the Scriptures. Among other things, they taught the people that **paying taxes to the government was wrong**, they taught that **it was better to give their money to the church rather than feed their fathers and mothers**, they taught **there was no resurrection (复活) but that men simply ceased to exist after death**, and they taught that **their traditions were superior to the moral laws** the Lord had given them. they taught the people that **Jesus was not God and he was not necessary for salvation 拯救**, but that keeping the law would save them.

There was one more error of the Pharisees that Jesus had to correct before he left the temple for the very last time: **He had to expose the Pharisees' false teaching on giving**. This is what you will hear about today.

Our headings are:

**How Man sees Giving**

**How God sees Giving**

Our goals are: **That understanding the richness of your eternal and glorious salvation through Christ's life, death, burial, and resurrection, and that you will then give back to God the token 象征, 标记 for which he asks.**

## **How Man sees Giving**

41 Now Jesus sat opposite the treasury (银库) and saw how the people put money into the treasury. And many who were rich put in much.

### **1. As people entered the temple they would put their gifts in 13 trumpet-like boxes.**

The boxes were there before entrance so **no one would be able to easily see what others were giving**. This would save embarrassment of those who had nothing to give. (God didn't want anyone to stay away from worship because they had nothing to give.) There was no offering taken up during the regular worship service in the Old or New Testament.

### **2. Why did they collect these monies (and some gifts) since God does not need anything from man (Psalm 50)?**

**a. God ordained 命令 giving so people could prove they were regenerated 被重生** and show their love for God for his salvation.

**b. God ordained giving so the expenses for temple service would be covered.** The priests 祭司, the Levites 利未人, who assisted the priests, and the historians (scribes) were also paid. Supplies and maintenance of the temple came from this also. These gifts, called the tithe 什一奉献, were not exclusively for paying the priests as some Charismatic churches 灵恩派教会 teach.

**c. God ordained offerings to be taken up at the temple for the help of the poor.** This continued after Jesus. The Lord acknowledged the blessing of collecting alms (救济金, 施舍物) for the poor in the life of Cornelius.

Acts 10:2 ...a devout (虔诚的) man and one who feared God with all his household, who gave alms generously to the people, and prayed to God always. 4 And when he observed him, he was afraid, and said, "What is it, lord?" So he said to him, **"Your prayers and your alms have come up for a memorial before God.**

Apostle Paul urged the Corinthians to collect monies for starving Christians in Jerusalem.

### **3. Jesus then purposely sat, likely with his disciples, and looked to see what money people were putting into the treasury boxes.**

He **did not do this in order to embarrass the people** or to be a snoop 窥探, 管闲事; he did this to teach his disciples a lesson.

### **4. They saw many who were rich put in a lot of money into the treasury from what they were given.**

42 Then one poor widow came and threw in two mites (小钱), which make a quadrans (大钱).

### **5. They saw a poor widow come in and put in two mites (a small copper coin that was a fraction of a penny) into the treasury.**

Mite comes from a French word with means crumb (碎屑, 少许). This woman was in abject (凄惨的) poverty – at the very risk of starvation. **The Lord focused on this widow likely because he had just spoken about how the Pharisees were robbing the widows** of their houses. Maybe this one was robbed.

### **6. The disciples, like the Pharisees, thought that she gave a little. They thought the rich gave more.**

### **7. Lessons:**

**a. (Some general principles first.) God commands you to give to support the work of the kingdom. This would help the preaching and this would help with works of mercy to the poor.** Look at an example of a call to give to the needy.

Ephesians 4:28 Let him who stole steal no longer, **but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him** who has need.

So give like the Philippians gave to the Jews in Jerusalem – and like Paul told the Corinthians to do.

1 Corinthians 16:2 On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come.

**You pray** for the kingdom and **you are to work** for the kingdom through giving. Unfortunately, studies show that between 80-96% of Christians do not tithe. But God expects you to devote 奉献 to him what belongs to him.

**b. When you give you show your thankfulness to God for your salvation by returning a portion of what he has given.**

Giving **confirms in the believer's heart that he belongs to Jesus**. So don't say: I am elect 选民 and I can live however I want."

**c. God sees how you spend every penny you have.** Everything you do is laid open before his eyes. So you have to spend your money the way God says. Even the 90% that you have for yourself is ultimately God's.

**d. Learn that God sees all the distresses of your life.** What a comfort this is to the Christian! You are never alone. God is always near you and aware of all the troubles you face in life and Jesus saw the plight of this woman.

**e. You never know whose eyes are on you in your life.** Live your life so that you can be a blessing to those around you. It may be your children or it may be your enemies watching your life. Live a holy life that pleases the Lord.

**f. The main point: Know that large gifts could fool people and skew (使歪曲) their perception of proper giving.** Eg: Suppose a man gave \$50,000. in tithes to the Lord, wouldn't you think that was great? But suppose that man worked for \$2,000,000, what is the percentage he is giving to God? Only 2.5%! Is that faithful? No. Faithful giving is what God requires. It is a fact poor people give a higher percentage of their income to charitable causes than rich people. But it ought not to be so.

## **How God sees Giving**

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 then explained to his disciples what they were seeing and correcting their common erroneous perception of giving.**

He wanted to teach them how God saw giving.

**2. Jesus said: "With certainty the poor widow gave more than the others who gave large sums of money into the treasury."**

**3. Jesus then explained why the poor widow woman gave more.**

**a. The rich gave out of (from) their abundance.** This meant they only gave a portion of what they had received from God.

**b. The poor widow gift was better because she gave out of (from) her poverty and she gave 100% of what she had.** A preacher wrote: The worth of a gift is to be determined, not by intrinsic value (固有价值), but by what it costs the giver. **And the true measure of the cost of her giving was not what was given, but what was left after she had given.** She did not have a husband to provide, but yet she gave. She gave because she knew what belonged to the Lord. **She didn't want to be a thief. She herself belonged to God. She knew of salvation** through Messiah's sacrifice. So when God said to give, she gave.

**c. The poor widow's gift was better because she loved the Lord more.** This made her gifts more special. Wouldn't you love a gift that your child gave you more than your rich boss?

**d. She gave with trust that the Lord would provide for her need.** She gave and **trusted God's providence 护理, 供应**. Gill: **She gave in faith, from the principle of love, for the glory of God!** The rich gave with the knowledge they had extra. It is likely that the woman had nothing more for the next day. But I have no doubt that this lady left the temple with greater joy in her heart than those who gave much.

**4. This does not mean the rich were bad or that their gifts were unworthy.**

It simply says that they gave less. They would only be considered sinful if they gave less than they should.

## **5. Lessons:**

**a. Some general principles first: This is a warning against how you might judge someone.** You don't often know the circumstances of other people's lives, so judge charitably (有恩慈地). (Illustrate)

**b. Even if some of what you give is wasted or misused, God is the rewarder of your gift.**

**c. Main points: Godly giving is not measured by the size of your gift but by the condition of your heart.** God wants serious hearts that are committed to serving his kingdom. (Remember, God does not need anything from you.) God knows if you are giving for vanity (虚荣), self-love, interest, ambition (野心), hypocrisy (假冒伪善), or whether you are giving through love, charity, zeal for his glory, and with a hearty desire to please him. God loves a cheerful giver.

**d. Godly giving is measure not by the size of your gift but by the size of your gift in relation to what God has given to you.** So that \$50,000.00 gift you heard about earlier is not evidence of faithfulness in giving. A five dollar gift might be much more if you have nothing.

**e. The Lord's response is a rebuke to every "health and wealth" preacher.** Poverty is not always a sign of faithlessness. Some people are poor because of God's providence.

**f. Poverty does not excuse you from giving.** Learn from the good example of the Philippians! Be willing to sacrifice so you can give. Go without a meal if you can. Skip a meal every week and give that money to the needy or to a mission cause. That's a challenge.

**2 Corinthians 8:2** that in a great trial (试炼) of affliction (患难) the abundance of their joy **and their deep poverty** abounded in the riches of their liberality. **3** For I bear witness that according to their ability, yes, and beyond their ability, they were freely willing, What if you don't have money? Give of your time or use your talents to the service of the Lord. (Even CRA recognizes "in kind" gift, and so does God.)

**g. Only when you understand who Christ is to you, when you properly understand Christ's work on the cross, and when that properly sinks in, does giving becomes easier and proper.**

### **Conclusion:**

Man sees only the outside so he sees someone giving a little and thinks that it is a little. The Lord looks at giving differently. **He looks at the heart to see if the giving is sincere, honest, and if it meets his standard.** He looks deeper. He also knows what you have or don't have.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ:

**1. I know for many giving is hard.** We believe that we "need" many things. And life would be hard without those things. Yet the reality is that everyone here is probably richer than 98% of the people in the world. Canada is still, up to the last time I checked, higher than even the US in per capita income. So we are blessed of God. Giving should not be hard.

**2. What would make you want to give?** You should give because **it is a command from God.** You give **because God has given you everything you own.** You should give because **God will reward your giving.** You never lose when you give. But most of all, **you give because the Father gave you his Son to pay the full price of your redemption from sin, death, and hell.**

**3. Teach giving.** Teach it to your children from youth. You will never regret it. You will be teaching them that all that they have, bodies, souls, and bank accounts, belong to the Lord. What a great lesson to teach them!

Finally: If you are not a Christian and you give, even if you give a million dollars to the church, it means nothing – not to God. He does not count it as anything good. Your heart has to be renewed by the working of the Holy Spirit in order for God to count your giving as anything good. If you want God to renew your heart, ask him to count Jesus' punishment as yours. If God does that it would be as if you took God's full punishment for your sins and you can have new life again...a new life to obey God.