

Luke 21:1 ¶ And he looked up, and saw the rich men casting their gifts into the treasury.

2 And he saw also a certain poor widow casting in thither two mites (1/5 of a cent).

3 And he said, Of a truth I say unto you, that this poor widow hath cast in more than they all:

4 For all these have of their abundance cast in unto the offerings of God: but she of her penury hath cast in all the living that she had.

I. INTRODUCTION

A. The Lord watching

1. God sees what we give - what everyone gives
2. And, He knows what we have
3. And, He knows how to provide our needs
4. And, He knows our heart

B. The Rich Men

1. Those who have all they need and most of what they want, and are unaffected by giving a gift to God.

C. The Poor Widow

1. Few are really poor today. This woman was poor because of a situation - her husband died and she could not earn a living.
 - a. In those days, a widow was among the poorest
2. This poverty is such that any money is a luxury, as it is possible to go without necessities like food and clothing.

D. The Poor Widow's Mite

1. A mite is less than a penny in those days - perhaps a dollar or two now. To here, is was "all the living she had" (4)

E. The widow did not have much

1. No reputation
2. No wealth
3. No notoriety with men
4. Just two of the smallest coins there were

BUT, WHAT DID THE WIDOW (WHAT DO WE) REALLY HAVE?

II. THE WIDOW HAD A CHOICE (Actually several)

- A. She knew her exposure to suffering and going without
- B. She could have blamed God for her suffering
- C. She knew her responsibility to God, and could have ignored it
 1. Ex 34:20 – none shall appear empty
- D. She knew her options, and that giving was not enforced by man
 1. Nobody would make her give, considering her poverty
- E. She could choose to go without by giving, as she lived "hand to mouth"

- F. She could choose how much to give - She had two mites
 1. Her choices
 - a. Give none - keep it all
 - (1) Deny God completely
 - b. Give one - more than required, leaving her a little
 - (1) A little faith, perhaps.
 - (2) Some people give a little, but not much
 - c. Give both - give all to God
 - (1) Trust Him fully
 2. No matter how much she gave, it would affect the treasury little

III. THE WIDOW HAD OPPORTUNITY

- A. She had an opportunity that the rich probably could not consider - she could give God everything.
- B. She had an opportunity to give MORE than the rich man
 1. God measures giving based on ratio, not value
 2. God does not need anything at all from us
 3. Everything we have comes from Him

IV. THE WIDOW HAD ACCOMPLISHMENT

- A. She was praised by the Lord:
 1. The rich men were not (3)
- B. She had a good full heart and soul
- C. She had faith that God would provide
- D. She had reward in heaven
 1. Luke 18:22 – treasure in heaven for giving all
- E. She had Jesus looking after her

V. CONCLUSION

- A. Prov 11:24 ¶ There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth; and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty.
- B. 25 ¶ The liberal soul shall be made fat: and he that watereth shall be watered also himself.