

The Very Best Giver

Mark 12: 41-44



Examples of Great Christian Giving

- Barnabas, **Acts 4:36-37**, *“Having land, sold it, and brought the money, and laid it at the apostles’ feet.”*
- Christians at Antioch, **Acts 11:29-30**, *“the disciples, every man according to his ability, determined to send relief unto the brethren which dwelt in Judaea”*
- Macedonians, **2 Corinthians 8:2-3**, *“in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality. For to their power, I bear record, yea, and beyond their power they were willing of themselves”*

Yet, None Were The Best Giver!

*Who Was the
Greatest Giver in NT?*

**An Unnamed
Widow, Deep
In Poverty**

Jesus Watched

Mark 12:41, “And Jesus sat over against the treasury, and beheld how the people cast money into the treasury: and many that were rich cast in much.”

❑ The Scene: Next to the Treasury

- ❑ Part of the temple where women could enter
- ❑ 13 trumpet shaped collection receptacles
- ❑ Noise of dropping coins filled the temple
- ❑ Jesus & Disciples sat, watching, observing



**He's Still
Watching
How We Give...**

**And Much
More!**

Jesus Watches...

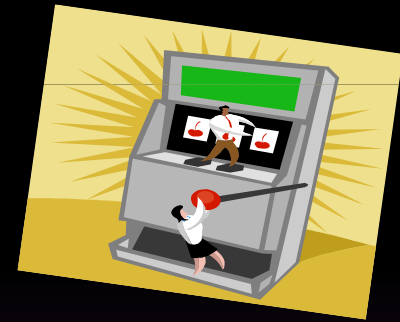
□ HOW WE...

- Earn a living (honest..dishonest)
- Spend & Use our money
- Pay our taxes, bills, debts, etc.



□ IF WE...

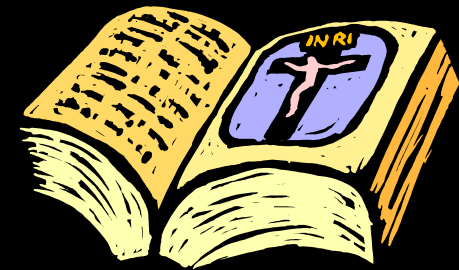
- Lie
- Cheat
- Steal
- Gamble
- Embezzle



Jesus Watches...

Scriptures Relating to Materialism

- ❑ 1/2 Jesus' recorded sayings
- ❑ 1/6 of all scripture
- ❑ 19/38 parables
- ❑ 16 times more scripture than salvation
- ❑ 32 times more scripture than worship



Was The Widow Motivated to Give?

Mark 12:42, “And there came a certain poor widow, and she threw in two mites, which make a farthing.”

- 2 Mite=Four cents
- A LITTLE OR A LOT???



How motivated was she?

Mark 12:44, “she of her want did cast in ALL that she had, even ALL her living.”

What was her motivation?

1. Was She Motivated by “Duty”?

□ It was a duty to give

□ **Deuteronomy 12:11**, “you shall bring all that I command you: your burnt offerings, your sacrifices, your tithes, the heave offerings of your hand, and all your choice offerings which you vow to the Lord.”

□ **Leviticus 25:35**, “If one of your brethren becomes poor, and falls into poverty among you, then you shall help him”

She would have given out of duty
As we should!

Are We Motivated by “Duty”?

- **1 Corinthians 16:1-2**, *“Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. (DUTY) Upon the first day of the week let every one of you (WHO) lay by him in store (WHAT), as God hath prospered him (HOW MUCH), that there be no gatherings when I come” (WHY)*
- **Godly giving not motivated by...**
 - Preacher, Feelings, Wants, Things, etc.
- **Worship in “spirit and in truth”, John 4:24**

2. Was She Motivated by “Concern”?

- ❑ Collection trumpets, different reasons
 - ❑ Wanted to do her part for the poor
 - ❑ Wanted to help with temple expenses
 - ❑ If you can't buy the lamb, buy the wood
- ❑ Are We Motivated Out of “Concern”?
 - ❑ Concern for spreading the gospel
 - ❑ Concern for helping the needy
 - ❑ Concern for defraying expenses

Macedonians gave “beyond their power”,
2 Corinthians 8:3

3. Was She Motivated by “Love”?

- ❑ She wore rags, but had the love of God
 - ❑ Love for God and Israel
 - ❑ Love for Abraham, David, & the Prophets
 - ❑ Love for God’s will
 - ❑ **Deuteronomy 6:5**, *“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.”*

Are we motivated to give out of “LOVE”?

- ❑ **1 Corinthians 13:2**, *“have not charity, I am nothing.”*
- ❑ **2 Corinthians 9:7**, *“God loveth a cheerful giver.”*

4. Motivated by her “Inheritance”?

- **Proverbs 28:20**, *“A faithful man shall abound with blessings”*
- **Matthew 6:19-21**, *“lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”*
- **Revelation 2:10-11**, *“be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.”*

Are we motivated by our inheritance?

What Motivated Her to Give?

Duty

Concern

Inheritance

Love

*The widow put her
heart into the collection;
not just coins.*

Lessons Learned by Disciples & Us

□ **Mark 12:43-44**, *“And he called unto him his disciples, and saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That this poor widow hath cast more in, than 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.”*

1. Best Giver, not always the biggest giver

- Many gave that day, Jesus singled out one.
- Godly givers cheerfully & deny self.
 - Some gave a lot; didn't deny self.
 - Some gave little; regretted what they gave

Lessons Learned by Disciples & Us

2. In Giving, rich & poor equalized

- With God, all have equal standing
- **Proverbs 13:7**, ***“There is that maketh himself rich, yet hath nothing: there is that maketh himself poor, yet hath great riches.”***
- **2 Corinthians 9:6-7**, ***“He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.”***

Lessons Learned by Disciples

3. All contributions are counted twice

- ❑ Priests may have counted her giving and laughed
- ❑ God counted her giving & smiled
- ❑ God measures with a different ruler
- ❑ **Matthew 13:31-32**, *“The kingdom of heaven is like to a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and sowed in his field: Which indeed is the least of all seeds: but when it is grown, it is the greatest among herbs, and becometh a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in the branches thereof.”*

Other Lessons to be Learned

4. Don't lay your treasures on earth

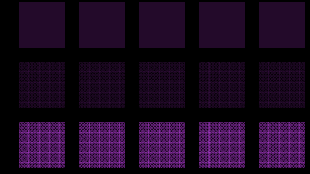
- **Matthew 6:19-21**, *“Lay not for yourselves treasures upon earth”*

5. Can't take it with you

- **Luke 16:19-31**, Lazarus and the Rich Man

6. More blessed to give than receive

- **Acts 20:35**, *“I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.”*



The Very Best Giver

“Is It I?”

