

From Provision to Generosity | Mark 12:41-44

Pastor Luke Miller – November 24, 2024

Mark 12:41-44

And he sat down opposite the treasury and watched the people putting money into the offering box. Many rich people put in large sums. And a poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which make a penny. And he called his disciples to him and said to them, "Truly, I say to you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the offering box. For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on."

Location: Temple in Jerusalem

Context: Jesus just finished condemning the moneychangers

The Treasury

Located in the court of women, where everyone could enter

13 receptacles

- 9 for tithing
- 4 for voluntary gifts
 - Maintenance, temple decorations, burnt offerings

"For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart." - 1 Samuel 16:7

Jesus knows **WHO** gives (vs 41)

Jesus knows **WHAT** we give

Jesus knows **WHY** we give (vs 43)

- Jesus celebrates the sacrifice of the giver, not the size of the gift

Jesus knows **HOW** we give

God is not looking for contributors. He's calling for committers.

Are you just making a "contribution" or are you ready to make a total commitment to Christ?

Action Steps:

1. Start by giving something on a regular basis: A little is a lot in the hands of God
2. Accept the tithing challenge!
 - In Malachi 3:10: God invites us to test Him through our giving.
 - Consider dedicating 10% of your income for 3 months and see how He blesses you in return through the highs and lows
3. Seek God in prayer, asking Him to reveal how we can each contribute