

How Much Do We Give?

by Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

Mark 12:41-44, "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. And there came a certain poor widow, and she threw in two mites, which make a farthing. 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."

This speaks of the woman giving a small amount of money to the Lord. In earthly value it was not worth much at all. Others gave amounts worth many times her gift and would have laughed at her and what she gave. If they had heard the Lord and what he said, they would have been very surprised at what he said. They might have laughed at his words and at him for thinking that she gave more than the rich folks.

True, in earthly value they gave a great deal more than she did. For instance, if her gift was a penny, or two, they may have given hundreds, or even thousands of dollars.

How could she have possibly given more than they did? The difference was not in the physical amounts, but was the difference in the heart. They gave a small fraction of what they had and it hurt them not at all to give it. This poor widow however gave all that she had and had nothing left for herself. So they gave a small per cent of their living, but she gave a hundred per cent of her living. Jesus said that she gave more than all of the others, some of whom were rich.

What was the point that Jesus was trying to get them to see? For in their eyes she had put hardly anything in the treasury compared to the abundance of the wealthy offerings. It was about the amount given compared to what the giver had left to himself. She gave all that she had, even all her living, while the others gave a part of what they had. Sure they gave, and gave a large amount, but they didn't give the Lord all that they had. Will the Lord be pleased with less than our all?

Look at us in our day and time. What do we give to the Lord? In our week we have 168 hours. If we go to church for every service during the week there is usually about 4 hours. That leaves us 164 for work, rest, and everything else that we do in our lives. Not many people give the whole four hours, or even three. Some would improve if they would even give an hour every week, but they either can't

or won't.

So it would seem that many are like the rich folks who gave a little of what they had and used the rest for themselves. I have heard some folks say that they don't have enough time to do all that they need to do. The sad part is that serving the Lord doesn't appear to be in the "things that they need to do." God is given the scraps of time and effort and yet he is thought to be happy with this, while we give our best to the world.

I have never been able to understand those who refuse to take interest in the church and the things of God. There are those who will not come to church regularly. They evidently don't see the need to do so. Some will fuss and say that it isn't necessary and make silly excuses why that can't come anyway. They say that they want to go to heaven but they don't seem to like to worship the Lord here. Do you suppose that they don't like to be around those who worship and praise God? Read the book - that's the only folks that will be in heaven.

Think about the life that we live and the blessings that God has given us. Are we thankful and what do we give back to the Lord? We may think that we give a lot to him but do we? It is not enough that we are pleased with ourselves, but is God pleased with us?

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This is a dramatized version of facts taken from the Book of II Kings intending to show some of the customs of these ancient and traditional times

The Shunammite's Son
REALIZING THAT ELISHA IS A HOLY MAN, A SHUNAMMITE WOMAN OF GREAT WEALTH HAS TAKEN TO FEEDING HIM WHENEVER HE PASSES THROUGH HER CITY, NOW

... SHE ASKS HER ELDERLY HUSBAND TO BUILD A ROOM FOR THE PROPHET IN A LITTLE ALCOVE ON THE GARDEN WALL SO HE CAN REST PROPERLY ON HIS TRAVELS THROUGH THE LAND...

WE SHALL PUT A BED IN IT, AND A STOOL, AND A CANDLE-STICK, AND TABLE!

... UNDER HER DIRECTIONS, A SMALL ROOM IS SOON CONSTRUCTED BY THE SERVANTS OF HER WEALTHY HUSBAND...

AND WHEN NEXT ELISHA STOPS BY FOR FOOD, HE IS SHOWN THE ROOM THAT IS HIS WHENEVER HE COMES TO SHUNEM....

THE PROPHET IS IMMENSELY PLEASED WITH THE WOMAN'S KINDNESS AND, AS HIS FOLLOWER AND ATTENDANT, GEHAZI, PREPARES A MEAL, ELISHA PONDERES ON HOW HE MIGHT REPAY THIS THOUGHTFUL LADY FOR HER GOOD DEEDS....

Next Week
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