

## Giving All You Have

God is a generous & giving Person. He has given everything He has to us. He wants us to become like Him – totally generous and totally committed to dedicate all of our resources to the cause of redeeming a lost world.

**Mk12:38-40** – Jesus warns his disciples about the religious leaders of the day. He explains that they desire public recognition, places of honor & they are full of pretense. One comment in particular: “they devour widows houses” (cp Mk 7:6-13) – the religious leaders generated schemes to defraud helpless widows of their property – greed

### **Mar 12:41-44 - Widow’s Mites**

41 – sat down to watch money given; **theoreo** Imp.A.I – began to observe; the rich

- Jesus observed the temple giving at length – Impf tense
- He was interested in people’s motives for giving money to the Lord

42 – Poor widow – destitute; 2 lepta – 2/5 of 1 penny

43 – Called disciples over; this widow gave more than all the others

- Jesus used situational opportunities to teach – situational opportunities
- This lesson was important enough to call the disciples to attention
- more than the others: God saw her tiny gift as more than all the large amounts

44 – The rich out of their abundance; poor widow gave all she had, all her living

- Jesus did not compare the specific amounts – 1 penny cp \$100
- Jesus compared giving part/abundance & giving everything
- Jesus applauded the widow for giving all she had – her total commitment

## **Christian Giving**

God has given all of us an abundance of something. Some have an abundance of money and others an abundance of time, ability, aptitude, etc. Whatever God has given in abundance is that which He wants us to give back generously. What God wants is for us to commit all we are and all we have to His service.

### **1. Jesus made a distinction between giving out of excess and giving all you have.**

- Giving what you will not miss – small part of your abundance
- Giving all you have – she gave all the money she had to live on

### **2. Jesus made a point about giving all you have – total commitment**

- Partial commitment – holding back the rest for yourself – 10% for God
- Total commitment – dedicating all your resources for God’s use

### **3. God desires that we become those who give all we have.**

- Mt 22:37 – love Lord – all heart, all soul, all mind – not part
- Rom 12:1-2 – present body & soul as a living sacrifice
- 2Tim 2:4 – spiritual soldier not entangled in the world – please his Master
- Rev 3:16 – lukewarm – not pleasing to God

**4. Giving everything to the Lord requires a total transformation.**

- OM belief / behavior system places self at the center and the primary beneficiary of all the resources we can accumulate. Mt16:22-23 – Peter intended to use the Lord for his own agenda – focused on things / man
- OM sees +H based on circumstances – pleasure, prosperity
- OM sees security based on circumstances – financial security
- NM knows +H is based on relationship with the Lord & security is based on the promises of the Lord.
- NM grows into total love with the Lord – total commitment of the heart
- NM gives out of gratitude for the Lord – appreciation  $\Rightarrow$  reciprocation  
Rom 12:1 – because of the mercies of God – present your bodies a living sacrifice

**5. Giving everything to the Lord is a mind-set based on faith in God's provision**

- Widow – gave all her money – trusted God for her provision
- 2Cor 8:1-5 – Macedonian bel's in poverty gave sacrificially – gave 1<sup>st</sup> to the Lord
- Mt 19:24-29 – give up houses, lands, family for my sake will be given hundredfold in the next life – eternal rewards.
- Mt 6:19-20 – don't lay up treasure on the earth, but lay up treasures in heaven

**6. Giving to the Lord is far more than just giving money – giving all**

- Widow gave her heart, her life, her future – everything she had
- Apostles – gave everything for the rest of their lives in service for the Lord
- Making everything God has given you available for His use – you home, car, time, talent, money, expertise, etc.