

## Are you Holding Back? (Mark 12:41-44) Café Church - 21-May-17

There are Bibles on the table in front of you  
 And a sermon outline  
 And some questions  
 Let me pray first...

### Intro

Remember last week?

Jesus rebuked (told off) the teachers of the law because they were ripping off widows! (12:40)

### The Narrative (vv41-42)

[Powerpoint 1-Temple]

Here Jesus observes people putting money into the treasury in the temple courts (v41)

The rich people threw in large amounts of money (v41)

[Powerpoint 2-Widow]

What a contrast between the teachers of the law - ripping off widows - and here comes a widow who puts in two very small copper coins (v42)

The coins = lepton in Greek = a mite = a small brass coin = smallest coin in circulation = worth about 6 minutes of a daily wage at the time

### Jesus' Observation (vv43-44)

Jesus observes

[Powerpoint 3-Observation]

The widow gave more than anyone else - including the rich people

The rich gave out of their abundance - she gave out of her poverty - she gave everything - all that she had to live on

## The Lessons

### [Powerpoint 4-Lessons]

1. God measures the gift not by what we give but by what we keep for ourselves
2. The value of the gift is not the amount given but the cost to the giver
  - a. The rich wouldn't miss what they gave
  - b. The widow gave everything - she would surely miss that!
3. God measures the gift by the sacrifice (2 Sam 24:21-24)
 

<sup>21</sup> And Araunah said, "Why has my lord the king come to his servant?" David said, "To buy the threshing floor from you, in order to build an altar to the LORD, that the plague may be averted from the people." <sup>22</sup> Then Araunah said to David, "Let my lord the king take and offer up what seems good to him. Here are the oxen for the burnt offering and the threshing sledges and the yokes of the oxen for the wood. <sup>23</sup> All this, O king, Araunah gives to the king." And Araunah said to the king, "May the LORD your God accept you." <sup>24</sup> But the king said to Araunah, "No, but I will buy it from you for a price. I will not offer burnt offerings to the LORD my God that cost me nothing." So David bought the threshing floor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver.
4. What matters to God - is not what a person has but their devotion to God - which causes a person to give at great personal cost  
See James 2:5-7

### **James 2:5-7**The Message (MSG)

<sup>5-7</sup> Listen, dear friends. Isn't it clear by now that God operates quite differently? He chose the world's down-and-out as the kingdom's first citizens, with full rights and privileges. This kingdom is promised to anyone who loves God. And here you are abusing these same citizens! Isn't it the high and mighty who exploit you, who use the courts to rob you blind? Aren't they the ones who scorn the new name—"Christian"—used in your baptisms?

NIV <sup>5</sup>Listen, my dear brothers and sisters: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him? <sup>6</sup>But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who are exploiting you? Are they not the ones who

are dragging you into court? <sup>7</sup>Are they not the ones who are blaspheming the noble name of him to whom you belong?

So people should be measured by their faith not their wealth!

## Today

### [Powerpoint 5-Today]

Some today might criticize the widow for being reckless and not providing for her future and becoming dependent on the Jewish welfare system (Deut 24:19-21; 26:12-13)

Yet Jesus chose voluntary poverty (Luke 9:58)

He counselled some to do the same (Luke 18:22)

He taught the disciples to trust in God's providence (Matt 6:31-33)

Jesus is watching How people give today!

The "giving of Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:1-11) didn't go unnoticed

### [Powerpoint 6- DVD]

## Application/Challenge

### [Powerpoint 7-Response/Challenge]

Those who give liberally and cheerfully will be noticed

## **2 Corinthians 8:1-5** New International Version (NIV)

## The Collection for the Lord's People

**8** And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. <sup>2</sup>In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. <sup>3</sup>For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, <sup>4</sup>they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord's

people. <sup>5</sup>And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us.

## **2 Corinthians 9:6-7** New International Version (NIV)

### Generosity Encouraged

<sup>6</sup>Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. <sup>7</sup>Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

## **Hebrews 4:13** New International Version (NIV)

<sup>13</sup>Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

The Bottom line is - Everything belongs to God

Deut 10:14, Psalm 24:1, Psalm 89:11, 1 Cor 10:26

### **Challenge**

Is this passage - just about money?

Or is it about our heart and giving?

So - it what ways might we give?

Money

Time

Experiences

Expertise

Wisdom/Advice

Worship

Devotion

## Prayer

1. Are we giving all we can to the Lord and the Lord's people - in those areas?
2. Are we holding back?

What are we going to do about it?