

Luke 21:1-4
July 26, 2020

Open with Prayer

HOOK:

Q: When it comes to our giving, and let's focus financial giving, what do you think God is looking for? [Let people engage]

Transition: God sees more than the *portion*; He also sees the *proportion*. Men see *what is given*, but God sees *what is left*, and by that He measures the gift and the condition of our hearts. As a reminder, Jesus and His disciples are already in Jerusalem for the Passover celebration.

BOOK:

The Widow's Offering

21 As he looked up, Jesus saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury. ² He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. ³ "I tell you the truth," he said, "this poor widow has put in more than all the others. ⁴ All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on."

LOOK:

The rich gave from their abundance, leaving much more for themselves. The widow gave from abject poverty, leaving nothing for herself. They gave out of discretionary funds. She gave her bread money. Giving is judged by the degree of sacrifice.

Close in Prayer

Commentaries for Today's Lesson:

Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). The Bible Exposition Commentary (Vol. 1, p. 260). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

Now it was the disciples' turn to ask the questions!

It all started with the arrival in the temple of a poor widow with an offering for the Lord (Luke 21:1-4). Compared to the gifts of the rich men, her two copper coins seemed insignificant,

but Jesus said that she gave more than all the others combined. “The widow’s mite” does not represent *the least* we can give, but *the most*, our very all. When we sing, “Take my silver and my gold/ Not a mite will I withhold,” we are telling God that everything we have belongs to Him.

When it comes to our giving, God sees more than the *portion*; He also sees the *proportion*. Men see *what is given*, but God sees *what is left*, and by that He measures the gift and the condition of our hearts. Winston Churchill said, “We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.” He may have learned that from Jesus (Luke 6:38) or perhaps from Paul (2 Cor. 8:1–15).

Martin, J. A. (1985). Isaiah. In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 2, p. 256)

21:1–4. Following naturally what **Jesus** had just said about the teachers of the Law and their attitude toward widows, He pointed to a **poor widow** who was putting into the collection all her meager resources (**two lepta**, each worth about 1/8 cent; cf. 12:59; Mark 12:42). The percentage of what she gave was larger than **all the others**. So Jesus’ point was that her gift, though small, was more because she gave **out of her poverty ... all she had to live on**.

Butler, T. C. (2000). Luke (Vol. 3, p. 350). Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers.

A. The Stewardship of Glory: Bankrupting False Glory (21:1–4)

SUPPORTING IDEA: *Stewardship is judged on what you have left, not what you give.*

21:1. In the temple, teaching as usual during these final days, Jesus noticed the rich dropping their offerings into the temple coffers. The way they did it, one could hardly fail to notice them. They did this as they prayed (20:47) for show, to be seen by others.

21:2. Jesus did not focus on the rich. He zeroed in on a poor widow. She had two lepta, each worth about one one-hundredth of a denarius, the coin used for a day laborer’s daily wage. Thus, her contribution to the temple was tiny in terms of monetary value.

21:3. But her two lepta had spiritual power. They form the subject for teaching Christian stewardship to this day. Why are they so important? Jesus valued these “worthless” coins as worth more than all the rich people had put in.

21:4. Jesus’ reasoning is simple. The rich gave from their abundance, leaving much more for themselves. The widow gave from abject poverty, leaving nothing for herself. They gave out of discretionary funds. She gave her bread money. Giving is judged by the degree of sacrifice.

The Holy Bible: New International Version. (1984). (Lk 21:1-4). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.