

Giving Matters

Luke 21:1-4

"I tell you the truth", He said, "this poor widow has put in more than all of them." - Luke 21:3

Main Point: How we give and why we give matters to God

Introduction: Use the following questions to introduce the topic of discussion -

When you were a kid, how did you store your money? Did you have a favorite piggy bank or hiding place?

As a kid, what did you do with your allowance? Were you a saver or a spender? What did you like to buy with your allowance?

In Luke's narrative Jesus is in the Temple complex. He had just finished warning against the pride and arrogance of the scribes, and it is in this same vein he takes on the rich of Israel in our passage. Jesus is watching the people as they place their gifts in the treasury when a widow comes and makes an impression on Him. From her example we learn that what we give and the proportion of our income we sacrifice is being watched and considered by God.

Giving matters because:

1) JESUS PAYS ATTENTION TO OUR GIVING. Read Luke 21:1-2.

Our verse says Jesus "looked up and saw" what was going on. In your own words, what did Jesus observe?

How does it make you feel to know that God is paying attention to us when we give? Is it something you have ever thought about before? When we do give, how can we take comfort from **Matthew 10:29-31**?

If the Lord opened up our checkbooks, so to say, what would he observe about our giving? Where do our priorities lay in our finances?

2) JESUS PAYS ATTENTION TO OUR MOTIVATION IN GIVING. Read Luke 21:2.

Does our motivation for giving really matter as long as we're just giving?

Read Luke 16:13-15. What does Jesus indicate about the Pharisees motivation in giving? How did this backfire?

Matthew 6:1-2 says, “Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of people...otherwise you will have no reward from Your Father in heaven.” How does Jesus’ tell us to give? Does it matter whether we give a check or online? In church or in our bedroom on a computer?

3) **JESUS PAYS ATTENTION TO THE PROPORTION OF OUR GIVING. Read Luke 21:3-4.**

What did Jesus say about the proportion of the widow’s giving compared to the rich? Is giving out of surplus showing less faith than giving out of poverty?

What does **Luke 16:10-12** say about our stewardship? What does Jesus imply when he says, “if you have been faithful with what belongs *to someone else*?”

When have you given beyond what you thought you could give? How did God bless you in that?

Apply It:

Search your heart and ask yourself what your motivation is for giving. What proportion of your income are you giving now? Would you be happy to share that with the Lord, or embarrassed? How can you be more generous with what God has entrusted to you?

Pray:

Pray the Lord would work in your heart to give. Ask him to reveal your true motivation for giving, and it’s not love for Him, ask forgiveness and seek reconciliation. Pray for the courage to give generously to His causes and release your worries to Him about providing for the days to come.

Coming up at VillageChurch:

Baptism: November 5th in Worship. Email info@blythewoodvillage.com to get more info.