

Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ

Widow's Mites

Last time...the Woes of Jesus to the scribes and Pharisees in Matt 23 concluded...

Woe #8 regarding the persecution of the righteous by the unrighteous...
followed by the Messiah's heart-wrenching Farewell to the nation of Israel...
which included a promise of coming again!

We live in the gap in time between Jesus' Farewell and His Return/Coming again to
Jerusalem

We considered the persecution of the righteous by the unrighteous in our days
Religion and Gov't
What we should do about it

This time...Jesus turns His attention to something else going on in the Temple

We will be in Mark 12 and Luke 21

Mark 12

v41 Jesus sat over against the treasury:

Jesus is sitting directly opposite the treasury

- collection boxes in an outer court of the Temple
- where people would come with freewill offerings unto the Lord

He watched as the multitudes in the Temple Court, in Jerusalem for the Passover,
dropped their money/offering in the collection boxes

Those that were rich threw in much money

Do you see yourself among the worldly wealthy?

Come to Egypt with me, go to Honduras with Robert

v42 poor widow...two mites...farthing:

As Jesus was watching, along came one poor ("beggar", "pauper") widow...
a woman all alone to fend for herself

Into the collection box she threw...two mites, the equivalent of a farthing

mite:

- a contraction of "minute"
- the smallest Roman coin (of the least value, bronze)

2 mites = 1 farthing
farthing: 1/64 of a denarius
denarius: one's day's wage for the common working man

So, in round numbers, if the day's wage for the common working man was \$100, this poor widow gave unto the Lord ~\$1.50

Watching the rich put much in the collection boxes and watching the poor widow put an absolute pittance, what is the Lord's assessment?

v43-44 poor widow has cast more in...all her living:
Ever teaching His disciples, pouring His heart into them, especially this
Final Week of His ministry, Jesus says

Verily I say unto you...Thus saith the LORD

This poor widow...the furthest thing from a self-sufficient person,
one utterly dependent upon the Lord

cast more in...more is "quantity" or "quality" depending on the context;
quality in this context

than all they...more than anyone else, more than any of the rich men

For all did cast in of their abundance...of their excess, of what exceeded their
need (their needs are satisfied before the gift, the gift has no impact on
their need)

but she of her want...abject lack and destitution, not having anywhere near
enough for her needs much less having an excess

did cast in all that she had, all her living...gave her entire livelihood,
everything she had for her existence

Watching the rich put much in the collection boxes and watching the poor widow
put an absolute pittance, what is the Lord's assessment?
The rich men put in little but the poor widow put in much

Let's look at the parallel passage in Luke 21

Luke 21

v1-4 looked up and saw...rich men...poor widow...cast in more:
Jesus is watching the giving of freewill offerings,
which were supposed to be a sacrifice, to be felt

He sees...everything, actions and hearts

- rich men
 - who have no material needs
 - who offer no sacrifice even though they dropped much money (Mark 12:41); they will never miss or “feel” their gift
- a poor widow
 - has a great material need
 - offered a great sacrifice even though it was a pittance; her sacrifice/gift was everything she had for her impoverished existence

Do you suppose this text has been taken out of context and abused by

- False teachers making merchandise of God’s flock?
- Greedy pastors more interested in fleecing the flock than feeding the flock?
- Empire-building pastors in their endless building projects?
- Self-willed pastors who pursued “religion” as a way to make a good living rather than responding to the calling of God upon their lives to serve His people?
- Religious leaders that prey on people, devouring widow’s houses?

What is the lesson Jesus is teaching His disciples/us?

Is the lesson...money?

No, it cannot be

Jesus commended one poor widow who gave a pittance, not the many rich men who gave much money

Is the lesson...tithing?

No

Having just pronounced 8 Woes upon the self-righteous, unbelieving, hard-hearted scribes and Pharisees, Jesus is teaching His disciples a lesson about...
a heart of worship and devotion that is pleasing to God

A freewill offering is a sacrifice of worship

The issue is NOT the money, it is our heart

This poor widow is a bright light in a dark place

Matt 6:25-34

The Lord knew and met her needs...and she knew it and worshipped Him

She had no idea where even her next meal was coming from...

but she knew the Lord Who would provide it!

What a remarkable contrast between this poor widow and

a. the “mighty men”...the scribes and Pharisees

b. the rich men in the treasury

The poor widow joyfully gave to give her devotion/worship unto the Lord

The many rich men half-heartedly gave to get...the praises of men

The poor widow is...all in with the Lord!

The many rich men are...double-minded

The poor widow is weak and utterly dependent upon God Who is strong and faithful

The many rich men are self-sufficient and independent of God

The poor widow gave to the Lord...her first and her best

The many rich men gave to the Lord...their last and their leftovers

The poor widow trusted the Lord...her offering was with great faith

The many rich men trusted in their money...their offering were with no faith

The poor widow lived life on her knees

The many rich men lived a life of ease

(Seth Wetter in conference yesterday)

The poor widow is in her right mind

The many rich men are deceived

The Word of God has much to say about riches/money/worldly wealth...because

- it is so dear to the heart of mankind
- it has a cunning and cruel way of dominating the lives of people
- it is an idol and a unmerciful taskmaster to many, even to most

Let's take a survey thru the Wisdom/Counsel of God to

- put worldly riches in their proper place
- get God's perspective and heart on riches

Ps 37:16-17

Ps 49:6-9

the things of the world stay in the world

Ps 62:5-10

Prov 8:10-21

Prov 11:4, 28

Prov 13:7

Prov 22:1-4

Prov 23:4-5

Prov 30:7-9

Eccl 5:10-15

Deut 8:11-20

Matt 6:19-24

Matt 13:18-23

Mark 10:17-27

Luke 16:1-13

money to be used for God's Plan and Kingdom

1 Tim 6:6-11, 17-19

Heb 11:24-27

Eph 1:3-7

Eph 2:1-7

So,

1. What is the rational definition of "riches"/wealth?
 - All things of the world stay in the world
 - All things of God are forever
 - True riches/wealth are of God, forever...spiritual vs material

2. What is true Wealth Mgmt?

Prov 3:5-7

Phil 2:12-13

1 Cor 4:1-2

Ken's 3 Questions of new clients

The lesson of the widow's mites:

- a heart of worship that is pleasing to God
- All in...reconciliation of man to God
 - Jesus poured out His blood – Jesus is all in
 - The Father turned His back on His Son and poured out His wrath upon Him for our sins – the Father is all in
 - our proper response is – all in (Rom 12:1)