

Set Free Devotional #7

by

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Monday, March 23 (Mark 12: 43-44) 43 Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. 44 They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on.”

You may have heard the story. Jesus took His disciples to the Temple money collections for a spiritual lesson. People were coming by and putting their money into the collection boxes as part of their worship. The boxes had big brass funnels on top that rang when the coins hit the sides. It was said that those in charge of the treasury could count the money just put in by the sound the funnels made.

Giving money to the treasury was a pious act and while doing your religious duty you also had the added opportunity to show off to others with how much you put in. You got to impress God and your fellow Israelites all at the same time. - But maybe not so much.

God was watching and yes He, like everyone else, saw what was given by each individual. But we often forget that God has a different perspective on things than the one that we may have. God did not look at how much was given but on how much was kept.

God was more interested in how big the love signs were in the heart than the dollar signs in the box. The widow stood out to Jesus (and was pointed out to the slow witted disciples by Jesus) because the signs of love for and faith in God were bigger in her heart than all the money put together from all those before her. It's the obedience and trust that get tallied in God's books.

Now Jesus was not telling us that we need to give every penny we have to Him through the church (you can breathe now). But He was trying to get the disciples to see that it's not how much we are worth in the eyes of the money counters, it is how much of what we have that we actually acknowledge belongs to God and not us. Are we guilty of bargaining with God? Ten percent for you, God, and ninety percent for me. I think that sounds about right! Or I could be very generous and I'll say that you, God, can have twenty and I'll control eighty percent of my money. That should turn a few angelic heads!

Perhaps the widow didn't care what anyone else thought. Perhaps she was so grateful to God for His blessings and so sure of His caring for her that she freely acknowledged that everything she had really belonged to God and He had asked her to be a good steward of what He had sent her way.

She was a good steward and though she did not know it, the Son of God called her out before the very angels of heaven as valuable in the sight of God.

Prayer Suggestion:

“Our Father, we call our offerings gifts. Please forgive us. We give to you out of what is yours already. May we truly render unto God what is God's and be found faithful stewards of the money you have entrusted us with. Amen”