

**WHEN A LITTLE IS A LOT**  
**MARK 12:41-44 / 3:29-17 / WED**

**I. Who is in this story?**

- A. A crowd--v.41a.
- B. Rich people--41b.
- C. A poor widow--42.
- D. How did Jesus know so much about this woman?
  - 1. Jesus was a keen observer of life.
  - 2. What could he have observed about this woman?
    - a. By her clothing he would have known she was poor, but not just poor.
    - b. By perhaps her age and that she was alone he could have known she was probably a widow.
    - c. Jesus appeared to have supernatural knowledge about people--John 4:17-18.
  - 3. How did Jesus know how much money she gave?

**II. WHAT WERE THESE PEOPLE DOING?**

- A. They were giving money to the Temple treasury.
  - 1. Historians tell us that there were 13 receptacles set up in the Courtyard of the Women.
  - 2. They were said to be in the shape of trumpets in that a long copper neck led to a box below.
  - 3. They were called trumpets because you could hear the coins as they rolled down.
- B. How much was given that day?
  - 1. The rich gave a lot.
  - 2. This poor widow gave only a little--42.
    - a. The word for small copper coin refers to the smallest Roman coin in circulation.
    - b. One such coin was worth 1/64<sup>th</sup> of a denarius, which was an average days wage.

**III. WHAT LESSONS CAN WE LEARN FROM THIS STORY?**

- A. First, that God knows what we give and what we don't give--41.
- B. Second, God wants us to learn about giving---43a.
- C. Third, God doesn't just consider how much we give, but how much we have left--43b-44a.
- D. Fourth, God knows what we need--44b.