

Mark 10:45 For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

41- The Mighty Mites

Mark 12:41-44

What if we could manage to get all of us pulling the same direction, seeking the same objective and supporting the same things? This happened with the early church. *Acts 2:44 And all that believed were together, and had all things common...*

This idea is reinforced in *Acts 4:32 And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common.*

We must understand that all have equal value regardless of what we can give or do if we are giving our all and doing all we can.

I- Jesus Observing:

Mark 12:41 And Jesus sat over against the treasury, and beheld how the people cast money into the treasury...

Jesus sat, after a hard day of contention with the Jewish leaders, observing the worshippers casting in their money into the temple treasury. This reminds me of a couple of things. For one God knows our every move and deed. Notice what Paul said to the Corinthian church. *1 Corinthians 4:4-5 For I know nothing by myself; yet am I not hereby justified: but he that judgeth me is the Lord. 5 Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God.*

So we can be assured that Jesus watches our every move, motive and action. The second thing that is apparent is that God knows the truth and we cannot fool Him. We may fool others and even ourselves but not God.

II- Dough for Show:

Mark 12:41 ...and many that were rich cast in much.

Some say this was their attempt to appear religiously pious but Jesus was not looking at the amount there entered but the heart. This brings up an important point about giving to God. God does not want us to give out of force or compulsion but out of a willing heart. Notice what the Bible says in *2 Cor 9:7 Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.*

Giving to God is not a show or simply a religious act. I suggest that it is in fact an act of worship.

III- The Mighty Mites:

Mark 12:42 And there came a certain poor widow, and she threw in two mites, which make a farthing.

As Jesus watched them casting into the treasury there comes along a woman. It is obvious she is poor by her clothes. My, what a picture we see here, the poor giving to the poor. It is ironic that Jesus just a few moment before setting down to watch the offerings said about the scribes in *Mark 12:38-40 ...Beware of the scribes, which love to go in long clothing, and love salutations in the marketplaces, 39 And the chief seats in the synagogues, and the uppermost rooms at feasts: 40 Which devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayers: these shall receive greater damnation.*

And now the widow comes to give only a small amount. Indeed a very small amount if we only look at the monetary value of the coins she tossed in. Two mites, oh, but beloved there were mighty mites.

IV- Abundant Giving:

As Jesus observed the worship of giving in the temple we see the moment of teaching unfolds. He calls to His disciples.

Mark 12:43 And he called unto him his disciples, and saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That this poor widow hath cast more in, than all they which have cast into the treasury: 44 For all they did cast in of their abundance; but she of her want did cast in all that she had, even all her living. She gave more than not just anyone but all together. What does this shout to us? I am trusting God with everything I have and resting in His provision. Remember what it says in *1 Peter 5:7 Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.*

She gave all she had but I suspect that the Master of the universe provided for her. It remind me of another story where a widow woman gave her last to God in the person of the prophet Elijah.

1 Kings 17:12-16 And she said, As the LORD thy God liveth, I have not a cake, but an handful of meal in a barrel, and a little oil in a cruse: and, behold, I am gathering two sticks, that I may go in and dress it for me and my son, that we may eat it, and die. 13 And Elijah said unto her, Fear not; go and do as thou hast said: but make me thereof a little cake first, and bring it unto me, and after make for thee and for thy son. 14 For thus saith the LORD God of Israel, The barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail, until the day that the LORD sendeth rain upon the earth. 15 And she went and did according to the saying of Elijah: and she, and he, and her house, did eat many days. 16 And the barrel of meal wasted not, neither did the cruse of oil fail, according to the word of the LORD, which he spake by Elijah.

There is a story in the Old Testament when David was going to offer an offering to God and what he was to give was offered to him for free. Notice what David said in *2 Samuel 24:24 And the king said unto Araunah, Nay; but I will surely buy it of thee at a price: neither will I offer burnt offerings unto the LORD my God of that which doth cost me nothing. So David bought the threshingfloor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver.*

David refused to give to God what did not cost him to give. This to me is a picture of these men who cast in great sums but were really not give much because of their abundance.

Then there is this widow woman who challenges us with her mighty mite. God has honored her gift down through the history of the church. Jesus saw her heart and was pleased. Does this mighty mite speak to your heart today concerning your worship of God through giving? Are you giving God an offering that pleases him? Remember it is not the amount but the heart.