

Mark 12:38-44

FOLLOWING THE MESSAGE

- 1) *12:38-40* Jesus had a zero-tolerance policy for fakes/hypocrites.
- 2) *12:40* The scribes' motivations were not devotion to God, but desire to be honored by people.
- 3) *12:41* Prosperity was linked to righteousness; therefore, they put it on display.
- 4) *12:42* The widow wanted no spectators. God noticed her, and that was enough.
- 5) *12:43* What Jesus was about to communicate was (and is) so counter-cultural, He wanted to be sure that the disciples were really listening.
- 6) *12:44* The means and the motive of the giver are the measure of true generosity.
- 7) *12:44* It is not the portion but the proportion that is important.
- 8) Seek God's heart about the right amount to give, instead of just going with personal feelings (2 Corinthians 8:3-5).
- 9) God says to give according to the measure of two criteria, both of which are based on your own heart:
 - by the ability of the giver in proportion to the gift
 - by the character of the one that gives it
- 10) If there is a willing mind, the amount of the gift makes no difference in God's sight.
- 11) The New Testament doesn't teach communism, it teaches commonism (sharing with those in need). The Bible teaches the principles of supporting the work of the church and of carefully stewarding all that God has trusted you.
- 12) The Biblical principle of giving is to: Advance the work of the church & carefully steward all God has trusted you with.

13) The accumulation of wealth and proper distribution of wealth is the means of advancing the Kingdom.

14) With either poverty or prosperity we must learn the secret of contentment (Philippians 4:12-13).

15) Wealth is to be employed in ministry to others. Prosperity provides great opportunity and great responsibility (1 Timothy 6:17-19).

What can a 2000 yr old penniless woman teach us?

- 1) - If there is "a willing heart", the amount of the gift makes no difference in GOD's eye!
- 2) Give our gifts in private – not for show or applause
- 3) We give our money *cheerfully*
- 4) We give - *out* of what we possess

GREEK WORDS

Perisseuō (per-is-syoo'-o)—to super abound, be in excess; to excel :- (have more) abundance, enough and to spare

"Without that kind of heart, we can give everything we have to feed the poor, and yet have not one atom of that which will be pleasing to our God" **Charles Simeon 1835**

"At most one is doing something only remotely analogous to the tithing practice of the Old Testament, which was a tax to support the Temple and the priestly system, a social and religious system which no longer exists. Tithes were obligatory in Judaism as a tax until the destruction of the Temple in A.D. 70, but they are not thus binding upon Christians." **Paul Stagg**

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