

# **SACRIFICIAL GIVING**

## **Mark 12:41-44**

**What Jesus found exciting was a widow who gave sacrificially.**

### **I. A PICTURE OF SACRIFICIAL GIVING** - Mark 12:41-44

#### **A. THE WIDOW'S WAYS**

1. She had coins in her hand (42)
  - a. She came to the temple with money ...
  - b. She did not give what she did not have
2. She had giving in her heart (44b)
  - a. She did not keep one coin and give one
  - b. She was willing to give all that she had
    - Exp: The widow of Zarephath – I Kings 17:9-16

#### **B. CHRIST'S OBSERVATIONS**

1. He saw her giving (42)
2. He taught from her giving
  - a. Note Christ's excitement ...
    - Calling His disciples
  - b. His exclamation: "Truly" (43)
  - c. His point: She gave all! (44)
  - d. His lesson: Sacrificial giving is commendable

### **II. SOME PRINCIPLES FOR SACRIFICIAL GIVING**

#### **A. CONSIDER YOUR PRIORITIES** - Matthew 6:19-33

1. What are you storing? (19-21)
  - Earthly or heavenly treasure?
2. Who are you serving? (24)
  - Is your master God or gold?
3. What are you seeking? (31-33)
  - Daily provisions or godly passion?

#### **B. EXAMINE YOUR CONTENTMENT QUOTIENT** - I Timothy 6:6-10

1. The goal: Godliness with simplicity (6-8)
2. The guile: A desire for riches (9)
3. The grief: Wandering and wounded (10)

### III. SOME PROMISES FOR FAITHFUL GIVERS

#### A. GOD DOES NOT FORSAKE THE RIGHTEOUS - Psalm 37:25

I have been young and now I am old, Yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken or his descendants begging bread.

#### B. GOD PROVIDES FOR GIVERS - Proverbs 3:9-10

Honor the LORD from your wealth And from the first of all your produce; So your barns will be filled with plenty And your vats will overflow with new wine.

#### C. GOD IS GRACIOUS TO THE GENEROUS - Proverbs 11:24-25

There is one who scatters, and *yet* increases all the more, And there is one who withholds what is justly due, *and yet it results* only in want. The generous man will be prosperous, And he who waters will himself be watered.

#### D. GOD BLESSES THE OBEDIENT - Malachi 3:10

"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, and test Me now in this," says the LORD of hosts, "if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows.

#### E. GOD GIVES TO GIVERS - Luke 6:38

"Give, and it will be given to you. They will pour into your lap a good measure— pressed down, shaken together, *and* running over. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return."

### IV. THE PRACTICE OF SACRIFICIAL GIVING

#### A. QUESTION: How might we give more sacrificially?

#### B. CONSIDERATIONS

1. Disciplined Spending (limit yourself)
  - Giving up luxuries and non-necessities
2. Additional Resources
  - a. Give more when you get a raise
  - b. Give from your tax return or year-end bonus
  - c. Give from an inheritance
3. Estate Planning
  - Make provisions in a will or trust to leave money to the church and the Lord's work

**CONCLUSION:** "Wow ... look at that!" - *Is that what Jesus says when He watches us give?*

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