

GIVING ALL, YOU HAVE

God is a generous & giving Person. He has given everything He has to us. He wants us to become like Him – totally committed to dedicate all our resources to the cause of redeeming a lost world.

Old Testament Pattern of Giving – 1Chr 29:13-18 – giving with a free & willing heart

Mk 12 – Jesus warns the disciples about the false motives of the religious leaders

Mk12:38-40 – Jesus warns his disciples about the religious leaders of the day. He explains that they desire public recognition, places of honor & they are full of pretense.

- “they devour widows houses” (cp Mk 7:6-13) – the religious leaders generated schemes to defraud helpless widows of their property – greed
- Long prayers – for appearance’s sake – to impress people

Mark 12:41-44 - Widow’s Mite

41 – sat down to watch money given; **theoreo** (imp.a.ind) – began to observe; the rich

- Jesus observed the temple giving at length – Impf tense
- He was interested in people’s motives for giving money to the Temple
- Rich – gave large amounts out of their abundance – wouldn’t miss it

42 – Poor widow – destitute; 2 lepta – 2/5 of 1 penny – tiny amount

43 – Called disciples over; this widow gave more than all the others

- Jesus used situations as opportunities to teach the disciples
- This lesson was important enough to call the disciples to attention
- more than the others: God saw her tiny gift as more than all the large amounts

44 – Rich out of their abundance; poor widow gave all she had, all her living

- Jesus did not compare the specific amounts – 1 penny cp \$100
- Jesus compared giving part/abundance & giving everything
- Jesus applauded the widow for giving all she had – her total commitment

Christian Giving

God has given all of us an abundance of something. Some have an abundance of money and others an abundance of time, ability, aptitude, etc. Whatever God has given in abundance is that which He wants us to give back generously. What God wants is for us to commit all we are and all we have to His service.

1. Jesus made a distinction between giving out of excess and giving all, you have.

- Giving what you will not miss – small part of your abundance
- Giving all, you have – she gave all the money she had to live on
- Her faith was not in her money, not at all, faith was in the Lord’s promise

2. Jesus made a point about giving all you have – total commitment

- Partial commitment – holding back the rest for yourself – 10% for God
- Laying up treasures for yourself on the earth – lose it all when you die.
- Total commitment – dedicating all your resources, all kinds for God’s use
- Laying up treasures in heaven where you will always have them

(Matthew 6:19) Do not lay up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ "But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal

3. God desires that we become those who give all we have.

- Mt 22:37 love Lord – all heart, all soul, all mind – not part
- Rom 12:1-2 present body & soul as a living sacrifice
- 2Tim 2:4 spiritual soldier not entangled in the world – please his Master
- Mt 6:19-20 don't store up treasures on the earth but store treasures in heaven
- Rev 3:16 lukewarm – not pleasing to God

4. Giving everything to the Lord requires a total transformation.

- The Old Man belief/behavior system places self at center and the primary beneficiary of all the resources we can accumulate.

Mt16:22-23 – Peter intended to use the Lord for his own agenda – focused on things/man

- The Old Man sees perfect happiness (+H) based on circumstances – pleasure, prosperity
- The Old Man sees security based on circumstances – financial security
- The New Man knows perfect happiness (+H) is based on relationship with the Lord & security is based on the promises of the Lord.
- The New Man grows into total love with the Lord – total commitment of the heart
- The New Man gives out of gratitude for the Lord – appreciation → reciprocation

Rom 12:1 – because of the mercies of God – present your bodies a living sacrifice

5. Giving all to the Lord is based on faith in God's provision & love for Him

Widow – gave all her money – trusted God for her provision

- 2Cor 8:1-5 Macedonian bel's in poverty gave sacrificially – gave 1st to the Lord
- Mt 19:24-29 give up houses, lands, family for my sake - hundredfold in the next life
- Mt 6:19-20 don't lay-up treasure on the earth, but layup treasures in heaven
- Act 2:45 began selling houses and property to support new bel's in Jerusalem

6. Giving to the Lord is far more than just giving money – giving all

- Widow gave her heart, her life, her future – everything she had
- Apostles – gave everything for the rest of their lives in service for the Lord
- Making everything God has given you available for His use – you home, car, time, talent, money, expertise, etc.