Giving That Pleases the Lord

Luke 21:1-4

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The Big Idea: In a surprising story Jesus commends one of the poorest women in Jerusalem for her great generosity and faith in God. Giving that pleases the Lord is not always large in the world's eyes but is always sacrificial and from a heart that loves Him with abandon.

Luke 21:1-4 (ESV)

21 Jesus looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the offering box, 2 and he saw a poor widow put in *two small copper coins*. 3 And he said, "Truly, I tell you, this poor widow ***has put in more than all of them***. 4 For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on."

Key Take-Aways from the Temple Court

- People from all economic stations in life were doing the same thing as part of their worship – giving gifts to the offering.
- God's measurement of our giving isn't about the comparative amounts, but about the proportion.
- Jesus' commendation was rooted in his understanding of the woman's trust in her heavenly Father to meet her needs.
- We might look at what she did and call her decision reckless.

Some of What the Bible Teaches About Giving

1. God owns everything; therefore, He needs nothing from any of us to build His Kingdom. Psalm 24:1; Haggai 2:8
2. God invites us to be like Him and give from grace-driven hearts. 1 Corinthians 13:3
3. There is a beauty and wisdom to systematic and proportional giving. 1 Corinthians 16:2
4. Joyful and grace-driven living and giving reveal that the Lord has our heart. 2 Corinthians 8:1-5

Putting God's Truth into Practice

- God can take your little gift and do something amazing with it. The amazing thing God will do starts in our own heart. In giving the Lord teaches us love and sacrifice and trust.
- Remember that whether you are rich, poor, or in between, you have the same opportunity as everyone else. No one has the greater opportunity or disadvantage.
- Am I counting how much I can keep for myself or how much I can give to Jesus?
- Have you given God everything?
    - Does God have your heart?
    - Does God have your job? Your business?
    - Does God have your house and your car? Does He have your finances?
    - Does God have your spouse? Does He have your children?
    - Have you trusted God with your church or are you trying to control it?

I do not believe one can settle how much we ought to give. I am afraid the only safe rule is to give more than we can spare. There ought to be things we should like to do and cannot do because our charitable expenditure excludes them.

C.S. Lewis