

Mk 12.41-44—A Sacrifice Pleasing to God

Exposition

- I. After bringing His public ministry to a close, Jesus sat down opposite the ‘treasury’—13 chests for donations for the poor.
- II. While many put in much, a poor widow put in a penny.
- III. But as her gift was pleasing to God, Jesus pointed her out as an example worthy of our imitation.

Christ sees our actions and our hearts

- I. Christ sees our actions and our hearts, v.41, 44; Rev 2.23; Job 31.4; Heb 4.12; 2Cor 5.10
 - A. Christ knew this woman
 1. He knew that she gave all she had to live on
 2. He knew that she gave willingly and cheerfully
 3. He knew that she gave, not to be seen by men, but unto the Lord
 4. Christ therefore points her out as worthy of imitation.
 - B. Christ also knew the others
 1. He knew that they were rich and gave only out of their excess
 2. He knew that they gave with ill and sinful motives
 3. He knew that they gave to be seen by men
 4. Christ therefore overlooked their giving and their gifts.

Christ measures our giving and our serving

- I. Christ measures our giving and our serving
 - A. The widow’s offering was a sacrifice pleasing to God because she gave according to what she had, 2Cor 8.12
 - B. The rich’s offerings were unacceptable before God because they gave out of their excess and as unto men
- II. Divine accounting is very different than human accounting because God takes notice of the heart and measures our gifts and services by what’s in our heart, 1Sam 16.7

- A. Though God doesn’t need our money or our services, He calls us to give and serve that we might exercise the grace and love He’s given us and that we might know the joy of rendering a sacrifice pleasing to Him.

Exhortations

- I. Take comfort that God sees you and takes notice of what you do, Mal 3.16. No work you do for the Lord is lost.
 - A. This was David’s comfort, Ps 139.3 and Hagar’s as well, Gen 16.13
 - B. This was the encouragement given to the Hebrews, Heb 6.10, and is the promise given to us in Prov 19.17
 - C. Let it therefore be *your* comfort, Prov 15.3, and *your* encouragement, 1Pet 5.4; Gal 6.9; 1Cor 15.58
- II. Serve and give as those who’ll give an account to the Lord
 - A. You’re but a steward of what belongs to God and will therefore be held accountable for how you managed what He’s put into your hands, Mt 25.14-30
 - B. Therefore serve and give as those who’ll answer to their Master, Eph 6.6-8; 2Cor 8-9; Col 3.22-23
- III. Make preparations for giving and serving, 1Cor 16.1-2; Mt 25.31-40
 - A. Take an inventory of your supply and others’ needs and bring the two together, because this is a sacrifice pleasing to God.
- IV. See in this widow’s example a model of true discipleship worthy of your imitation.
 - A. She gave all she had, which represented the giving of herself to the Lord, the total commitment of herself to God.
 - B. As she imitated Christ and His sacrifice, so you’re to imitate her (1Cor 11.1; Eph 5.1-2).
 1. Hold nothing back from the Lord. Give all that you have and are unto Him and His cause.
 2. Lay yourself at His feet as a willing sacrifice, as an instrument for His glory at His absolute disposal.
 3. Whatever your status and provisions, be rich in good works, beginning with your own church, because love begins at home.