

## Widow-Like Giving

### CONTRIBUTION

Paul tells the Corinthians in 1Cor 16 to give as they prosper. And this is definitely a very good thing. Christians are to be a giving people. If God is blessing us with much, we ought to be giving much.

But there is another attitude in giving that Jesus shows in Mark 12:41-44. "Sitting across from the temple treasury, He watched how the crowd dropped money into the treasury. Many rich people were putting in large sums. And a poor widow came and dropped in two tiny coins worth very little. Summoning His disciples, He said to them, 'I assure you: This poor widow has put in more than all those giving to the temple treasury. For they all gave out of their surplus, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she possessed--all she had to live on.' "

Most widows today do not have incomes. This was even more so in Jesus' time. Financial avenues that we are familiar with such as retirement were not around for them at that time. For women, it was not common for them to have self-sustaining jobs. The only financial avenue for widows was dependency, usually being supported by a close family member. But this important message from Jesus is especially for those of us with incomes.

If we gave more sacrificially and not only as we prosper, more spiritual blessings will enter into our lives. When we give those things that we need to live on, we show our utter TRUST in God. The more spiritually mature a person is, the more they will be dependent on God and the more they can be independent from the world's wealth. Secondly, when we give the things we have to live on, we show our LOVE for others. Paul said in 2Cor 8:8 that our giving tests the genuineness of our love. When we give the things we have to live on, GOD WILL BLESS US more than we can possibly image. It is true that we cannot out-give God. And the more we give up in our lives, the more we will see that we didn't really need those things after all!

The example of the widow that Jesus spoke about is a difficult goal. It is a very difficult goal. But this attitude in our giving is very important. We should be continually striving for the attitude that the widow had... an attitude of dependence on God and not on the world. The widow did not let an income or lack thereof have an impact on her giving. Now, don't give to God impulsively. God wants us our giving to be purposeful. But most importantly, let your love have an impact on your giving.

This morning, I'm not going to ask, "How much will you give?" but I'm asking, "How much do you love?" Let's pray.