

Wednesday with the Word

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Me and The Widow: Not Equal Giving but Equal Sacrifice

Luke 21:1-4 NKJV

And He looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the treasury, **2** and He saw also a certain poor widow putting in two mites. **3** So He said, “Truly I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all; **4** for all these out of their abundance have put in offerings for God, but she out of her poverty put in all the livelihood that she had.”

Questions

What is one thing that you think holds people back from giving?

How much are you willing to give to do the one who paid it all so that the church can do what Jesus called the church to do?

What are you willing to give to the one who paid it all?

When you look at your bank statement how much does it say your faith is worth to you?

Does your faith reflect in your monthly bank statement?

Do you miss what you give (should you miss what you give)?

Is sacrificial giving a part of your understanding of your faith?

Are we stuck on tithing?

Is the tithe the floor or the ceiling?

Are you growing in your giving?

Do you love God enough to want to give to the work of God?

Luke 21:1-4 CEV

Jesus looked up and saw some rich people tossing their gifts into the offering box. **2** He also saw a poor widow putting in two pennies. **3** And he said, “I tell you that this poor

woman has put in more than all the others. 4 Everyone else gave what they didn't need. But she is very poor and gave everything she had."

Some Observations

1. This woman was a widow. Little to no support.
2. This woman was a poor widow. As a "poor widow" she didn't use her financial or social status as an excuse not to give.
3. She didn't say I can't give because I am poor but rather she said out of my poverty I will give. She appears to be compelled to give.
4. She was poor and she didn't hold back anything. She gave it all to the one who would give it all, because she had faith in the one who had supplied, would supply?
5. She was willing gave it all?
 1. What are we holding back?
 2. Why would we hold back?
 3. *Are we willing to give out of our need to meet our need? To give out of your need means that you have a need but instead of not giving because you have a need you realize you have a need to give. To have a need to give is to realize that is giving out of your need that your need will be met. To not give when you have need results in you still having need. People who don't give don't get more..it appears that they have less.*

Haggai 1:3-9

3 Then the word of the Lord came by Haggai the prophet, saying, 4 *"Is it time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses, and this temple to lie in ruins?"* 5 Now therefore, thus says the Lord of hosts: "Consider your ways!

6

"You have sown much, and bring in little;
You eat, but do not have enough;
You drink, but you are not filled with drink;
You clothe yourselves, but no one is warm;
And he who earns wages,
Earns wages to put into a bag with holes."

7 Thus says the Lord of hosts: "Consider your ways!" 8 Go up to the mountains and bring wood and build the temple, that I may take pleasure in it and be glorified," says the Lord. 9 "You looked for much, but indeed *it came to little*; and when you brought it home, I blew it away. Why?" says the Lord of hosts. "Because of My house that *is in ruins*, while every one of you runs to his own house.

- When you give out of your poverty or when you give above and beyond Jesus sees it. Not only does Jesus see it, you are actually giving more than those who don't give sacrificially.
- Sacrificial giving is biblical!

It is out of giving out of our need that our need is met. If we don't give when we need we will not get what we need. You will not get what you need because when you don't give out of your need you are cutting off the blessings of the one who will meet your need. God can't bless you, as fully as God would like, if you don't give as God directed you to give. God can't go against God's word.

When you respond to need out of your need, God will meet your need. The way to meet your need is not to hold back but rather to give more.

Philippians 4:14-20

14 Nevertheless you have done well that you shared in my distress. **15** Now you Philippians know also that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church shared with me concerning giving and receiving but you only.

16 For even in Thessalonica you sent *aid* once and again for my necessities. **17** Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that abounds to your account. **18** Indeed I have all and abound. I am full, having received from Epaphroditus the things *sent* from you, a sweet-smelling aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing to God. **19** And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. **20** Now to our God and Father *be* glory forever and ever. Amen.

Malachi 3:1-12

“Will a man rob God?

Yet you have robbed Me!

But you say,

‘In what way have we robbed You?’

In tithes and offerings.

9

You are cursed with a curse,

For you have robbed Me,

Even this whole nation.

10

Bring all the tithes into the storehouse,

That there may be food in My house,

And try 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 *such* blessing
That *there will not be room enough to receive it.*

11

“And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes,
So that he will not destroy the fruit of your ground,
Nor shall the vine fail to bear fruit for you in the field,”
Says the Lord of hosts;

12

“And all nations will call you blessed,
For you will be a delightful land,”
Says the Lord of hosts.

Examples of Sacrificial Giving in the Bible

Acts 2:40-45 - The Sold and Gave it ALL

40 And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, “Be saved from this perverse generation.” **41** Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added *to them*. **42** And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. **43** Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. **44** Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, **45** and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need.

Exodus 36:2-5 - The People Gave More Than Enough

2 Then Moses called Bezalel and Aholiab, and every gifted artisan in whose heart the Lord had put wisdom, everyone whose heart [b]was stirred, to come and do the work. **3** And they received from Moses all the offering which the children of Israel had brought for the work of the service of making the sanctuary. So they continued bringing to him freewill offerings every morning. **4** Then all the craftsmen who were doing all the work of the sanctuary came, each from the work he was doing, **5** and they spoke to Moses, saying, “The people bring much more than enough for the service of the work which the Lord commanded *us* to do.”

1st Kings 17:8-16 - The Widow Gives It All

8 Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, **9** “Arise, go to Zarephath, which *belongs* to Sidon, and dwell there. See, I have commanded a widow there to provide for you.” **10** So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, indeed a widow *was* there gathering sticks. And he called to her and said, “Please bring me a little water in a cup, that I may drink.” **11** And as she was going to get *it*, he called to her and said, “Please bring me a morsel of bread in your hand.”

12 So she said, “As the Lord your God lives, I do not have bread, only a handful of flour in a bin, and a little oil in a jar; and see, I *am* gathering a couple of sticks that I may go in and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it, and die.”

13 And Elijah said to her, “Do not fear; go *and* do as you have said, but make me a small cake from it first, and bring *it* to me; and afterward make *some* for yourself and your son.

14 For thus says the Lord God of Israel: ‘The bin of flour shall not be used up, nor shall the jar of oil run dry, until the day the Lord sends rain on the earth.’”

15 So she went away and did according to the word of Elijah; and she and he and her household ate for *many* days. **16** The bin of flour was not used up, nor did the jar of oil run dry, according to the word of the Lord which He spoke by Elijah.

Matthew 26:6-13 - Pouring It All on the Savior

6 And when Jesus was in Bethany at the house of Simon the leper, **7** a woman came to Him having an alabaster flask of very costly fragrant oil, and she poured *it* on His head as He sat *at the table*. **8** But when His disciples saw *it*, they were indignant, saying, “Why this waste? **9** For this fragrant oil might have been sold for much and given to *the* poor.”

10 But when Jesus was aware of *it*, He said to them, “Why do you trouble the woman? For she has done a good work for Me. **11** For you have the poor with you always, but Me you do not have always. **12** For in pouring this fragrant oil on My body, she did *it* for My burial. **13** Assuredly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be told as a memorial to her.”

Luke 21:1-4 - The Widow Gives Out of Her Need

And He looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the treasury, **2** and He saw also a certain poor widow putting in two mites. **3** So He said, “Truly I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all; **4** for all these out of their abundance have put in offerings for God, but she out of her poverty put in all the livelihood that she had.”

Acts 4:32-34 - Selling All Things & Giving All Things

32 Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul; neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in

common. **33** And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all. **34** Nor was there anyone among them who lacked; for all who were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the proceeds of the things that were sold, **35** and laid *them* at the apostles' feet; and they distributed to each as anyone had need.

2nd Corinthians 8:1-7 - Excel in Giving

Moreover, brethren, we make known to you the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia: **2** that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded in the riches of their liberality. **3** For I bear witness that according to *their* ability, yes, and beyond *their* ability, *they were* freely willing, **4** imploring us with much urgency [[a](#)]that we would receive the gift and the fellowship of the ministering to the saints. **5** And not *only* as we had hoped, but they first gave themselves to the Lord, and *then* to us by the will of God. **6** So we urged Titus, that as he had begun, so he would also complete this grace in you as well. **7** But as you abound in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all diligence, and in your love for us—*see* that you abound in this grace also.