

Touching The Heart Of Christ Mark 12:41-44

Introduction:

1. There is an unnamed widow in the Bible that did something so extraordinary that Jesus just sat and watched her. He was so amazed, He called His disciples over to watch also.
2. You say, “What in the world did she do?” Are you ready for this? She tossed two pennies into the collection box at church.
3. It not only got Christ’s attention, He had this story recorded two different places in the Bible for people to read for generations. Let’s read about this lady (Mark 12:41-44).
4. There is something profoundly significant here that we don’t want to miss. If this lady got Christ’s attention and touched His heart to the point that He wanted all the disciples to see it, then I want what she had. I need what she had (it wasn’t very often Jesus stopped everything and said...).
5. This text is not just about giving, because everybody in the text gave an offering to God. It goes much deeper. Notice verse 41. Jesus saw **how** the people gave, not just what they gave. This text deals with the heart. It was this woman’s heart that touched Christ’s heart. It was not the act of giving, but the attitude of her heart that moved Christ.
6. In the same way today, God is not impressed simply with our giving. However, our giving reveals our heart, and God cares deeply about the heart’s attitude of giving.
 - God desires your love for Him more than anything else in this world (vs. 30), and our attitude about giving to Him is a barometer of that love. Paul said that it proves the sincerity of our love. 2 Corinthians 8:8
7. What can we learn from this poor widow? How did her giving so touch the heart of Christ?

First, she gave out of her need.

1. The Bible uses two different words to describe her financial condition.
 - “*Want*” – “A falling short.” Mark 12:44
 - “*Penury*” – “A deficit; poverty.” Luke 21:4
2. This lady did not give to God because it was easy or convenient. She gave **out of** great need. She was poor and destitute. She obviously had no husband and it appears no children either. She was all alone in life. She enters the temple all by herself.
3. This little lady completely dispels the myth that giving is a dollar and cents issue. “I’ll give one day when I am able to.” No, it is a heart issue, pure and simple. Giving is a “now” issue. What am I doing **right now** with my life and my present resources?
 - **Example:** Churches of Macedonia (2 Corinthians 8:2-4): they gave **while** in a great trial of affliction and deep poverty. They didn’t say, “We’ll give

when this trial is over.” They gave while they themselves were in need.
This really gets God’s attention.

4. And when I say “need,” I don’t just mean financial need. We may be going through other areas of need in our lives (health, work, family, marriage problems, etc.).
5. When we give to God, even during our time of need, this truly touches the heart of Christ. He’s like, “Guys, come and see this.”

Second, she gave out of her faith.

1. This is obvious in that she gave **everything** she had. This represented her last meal. She was faced with a choice. She could give nothing and keep what little money she had left; she could give one mite and keep one for herself... or she could give both mites.
 - The first option required no faith, the second option required a little faith, but the third option (the one she chose) required great faith.
2. This is why it so touched the heart of Christ, and He said that she cast **more** in than the rich people. The rich people gave great sums of money, but there was no faith involved.
 - They had tons of money left after they gave. God doesn’t call us to give out of our excess. They gave out of their abundance, requiring no faith. Jesus measured what was **kept**, not simply the amount given.
3. The widow gave all she had, all her living. Her entire livelihood was represented in her gift. She was saying, “Lord, all that I am is yours.”
4. According to 2 Corinthians 8:5, this is the key to how the Macedonian believers could give even while in deep poverty. By faith, they presented their entire lives into God’s hands. When I give my entire being to God, giving of myself, my resources are not an issue.
5. But complete surrender takes faith, yet it greatly touches the heart of our Savior. Why is this? Because that was **His** attitude. He gave His all to the Father; He gave up everything to be hung on the cross in order to fulfill God’s plan and accomplish God’s work.
6. God’s work meant more to Christ than His personal comfort. This is why Jesus said in John 10:11, 18, *“I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd gives his life for the sheep...No man takes it from me, but I lay it down of myself.”* He gave out of faith to the Father. This widow gave out of faith. Giving is a “now” issue, but it is also a faith issue.

Third, she gave out of her love for God.

1. This woman had every reason **not** to give. Not only was she in extreme poverty, she was a widow. You say, “Why would that be a reason not to give?”
2. The scribes were the religious leaders at the temple. They were supposed to know and teach God’s Word. Look verses 38-40 to see what was common practice among these religious leaders. They took advantage of helpless and defenseless widows.

3. At that time, they were to be God's representatives; instead, they were thieves and extortionists. They very well may have taken everything this woman had, which may explain why she only had two mites to her name.
4. Yet she unpretentiously walks in, drops her offering in, and humbly worships her God. Only a deep love for God would cause her to do this. Jesus knew all about this woman, and it truly touched His heart. She understood and lived out verse 30: *"Love the Lord your God..."*
5. If this woman had a covetous heart, she could have easily hidden behind the excuse, "Well, why should I give? Those leaders are corrupt anyway."
6. She realized that all of this was about her relationship with God, not about the scribes or anybody else. Her giving was an issue of love. I believe Jesus was standing there just to witness her gift of love.

In Conclusion:

1. Isn't it interesting, to our knowledge, she never knew Christ was watching her that day. She never knew the choice she made would be recorded in the Bible for millions of people to read down through the years.
2. She probably thought her gift that day had little significance.
3. What if she had thought, "Well, why should I give when there is all that silver and gold in the offering? What difference could my two little mites make? It doesn't matter." But it **did** matter.
4. Little did she know, the Son of God, the Savior of the world, the King of kings was bragging on her to His disciples! Did she ever find out? Absolutely! Matthew 6:4 proclaims, the sacrificial gifts we give are seen by God, and in heaven, He will one day reward us openly.
5. We'll never know the far-reaching impact our giving makes until we get to heaven.