

Giving that Jesus Values

Mark 12:41-44

Context: In Mark 12:28-44, Jesus addresses the scribes and warns the people not to follow their teachings nor live like them. At the end of this passage, Jesus addresses genuine sacrificial giving.

To give in a way that Jesus values...

1. _____ discreet (vs. 41-42)

- A. At the Temple treasury, there were 13 brass chests, or boxes, into which the worshipers cast their offerings. These “chests” were called “trumpets” because they were shaped like trumpets. As the metal coins were cast into these trumpets, they make a loud noise. The more money that was cast in, the louder the sound.
- B. Matthew 6:2–3 (ESV) “Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. 3 But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing.

2. _____ it to your income (vs. 43-44a)

- A. While the wealthy gave from their abundant surplus, the widow gave from her poverty. Proportionally, she gave much more than the wealthy did.
- B. Deuteronomy 16:16b–17 (ESV) They shall not appear before the Lord empty-handed. 17 Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the Lord your God that he has given you.

3. _____ a Sacrificial Generosity (vs. 44b)

- A. While it was not a sacrifice for the wealthy to give from their surplus, the widow trusted God sacrificially, giving everything she had.
- B. In 2 Corinthians 8, Paul describes how the Macedonian Christians gave beyond their means (2 Cor 8:3) to the needs of persecuted Christians in Jerusalem.