

BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH OF ERIE

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WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES AND WE BELIEVE ABOUT THE GRACE OF GIVING

1 Corinthians 16:1-6; 2 Corinthians 9:6-9

This is the last message of twenty in the series on doctrine about “What The Bible Teaches and We Believe” here at BBC of Erie. Giving is something that I rarely speak about, although it is very much part of the Scriptures and Jesus certainly spoke about it very clearly and plainly as we will see in a few moments.

I am not speaking about the **Grace Of Giving**, because the church is in need of more money, God has blessed us greatly in that area. I am speaking about the **Grace of Giving** because the Bible teaches us about this very important aspect of our Christian life and walk with the Lord. Paul quoted Jesus in **Acts 20:35**, when he said; “*it is more blessed to give than receive,*” and I believe what Jesus said. Amen!

Now look with me again at our scripture passages and what the apostle said. Notice first **1 Cor. 16:1-4**. *When are we to Give?* On the **first day** of the week. *What are we to give?* What we have **laid aside** and stored up. *Why should we give?* So that we may **prosper**. Now go again to **2 Cor. 9: 6-9**. What do we learn here? First God loves a “Cheerful giver”. We are going to reap in proportion of what we sow. God will make all Grace Abound to us as we give unto the Lord. Remember what Jesus said in **Luke 6:38**, “Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.”

Now I want you to turn in your Bibles to **Mark 12:41-44** and let’s examine this passage about Jesus and the Temple treasury as we see how Jesus looks upon our giving unto Him.

In order to understand the text, let me remind you of the context. Jesus’ presence in the temple began when he condemned the moneychangers and the sellers, and it now ends with his commendation of a widow who sacrifices everything she has. Jesus had unmasked the religious hypocrites for their focus on externals.

Now what do we learn from this passage?

I. JESUS SEES WHO GIVES

Verse 41 mentions “many rich people” and in **verse 42** Jesus sees a “poor widow.”

How does it make you feel to know that Jesus is watching who gives? You may choose to give digitally through our website or perhaps you put something in the offering plate when you come into church. **Rest assured that your pastors don’t know who gives...but Jesus does.**

II. HE SEES WHAT WE GIVE

“Many rich people” put in “large sums,” which refers to many coins of all kinds – gold, silver, copper and bronze, which would have made a lot of noise as they were tossed into the trumpets. In contrast, the widow put in two “small copper coins, which make a penny.” Also known as the widow’s “mite,” the word for this coin has the idea of “thin, peeled, scaled down and light.” It was the smallest coin in use among the Jews.

III. HE SEES WHY WE GIVE

We observe in **verse 43** that Jesus transitions to a teaching time with his disciples: “*And He called his disciples to Him...*” This is a strong word that means, “to bid to come.” In order to mark this moment, He says to them, “*assuredly or truly, I say to you...*” When Jesus says, “truly,” we better pay attention. “*This poor widow*” (**V-43**). This dear woman caught the eye of the most important person in the universe. Jesus] celebrates the sacrifice of the giver, not the size of the gift.

IV. JESUS SEES HOW WE LIVE

We don’t give in order to get, and we don’t give thinking that we’ll earn God’s favor. Rather, because of God’s grace we offer back to Him what is His anyway (**2 Corinthians 9:7**). The widow didn’t give a lot. She gave her all. She didn’t give the Lord her leftovers. She gave her all. She didn’t give what she could spare. She gave her all.

- Jesus knows who gives
- Jesus knows what we give
- Jesus knows why we give
- Jesus know how we live

The wealthy **contributed** while the widow demonstrated total **commitment**. Where are you in the matter of giving unto the Lord, because as Jesus said, “*It is more blessed to give than to receive.*” (**Acts 20:35**)?