

Money Talks (Mark 12: 41-44)

- Jesus said, “**For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also**” (Matt 6:21)
- Few things reveal the state of heart like the attitude we have toward giving & money
- So Jesus chose the temple treasury to give his last teaching before leaving the temple
- Jesus chose this place to contrast false righteousness with true devotion to God (41)
- There were 13 brass treasure chests located in the temple treasury for the offerings
- During the Passover this was a busy place as many from far and wide made offerings
- Here amongst the noisy din Jesus found an inconspicuous place to observe the givers

I. Jesus' Observations of Wealthy Donations (Mark 12: 41b, 42)

- Jesus observed as he watched, “many rich people threw in large amounts” (41)
- We shouldn't assume that Jesus disapproved of all offerings, but much displeased him
- Public settings like this were prone to promote self-conscious ostentation
- A prime stage for the wealthy to make a favorable impression on the religious elite
- In Jesus' eyes, what he observed in the treasury was a world of souls in deadly peril
- The ability to do a good deed which was impossible for others to do led to real danger
- The giver was prone to self-righteousness, superiority and a false security before God
- But Jesus also saw something precious: **And a poor widow came & put in 2 small copper coins, which make a penny.” (v. 42)**
- A widow's life in biblical times was proverbially difficult. Her offering testifies to this
- Her offering was so small they were called lepta, literally the idea of a tiny coin
- Her approach to the coffer, was silent & undetected, but she knew that God saw her

II. Jesus Observation of the Widows Offering (12: 43, 44)

- This solitary act, summed up the *Shema* which was to love God with all her heart
- 1. Observation: when it comes to giving, posture of the heart makes all the difference
- 2. Observation: God can do great things with tiny offerings. Her example is timeless
- 3. Observation: the Judgment of Christ will balance the accounts
- 4. Observation: God is sublimely egalitarian: there is no advantage to poor or rich
- God does not look at the size of the gift given, God looks on the attitude of heart
- God wants us, our hearts. We cannot give ourselves to him apart from our money.
- The best remedy for our hearts that cling to the dust, is to love God with all our heart
- Where our hearts are there will be our treasure (Matthew 6: 21)