

## **Giving by Faith**

Luke 20:45-21:4; Coast Community Church; Pastor Earl Miles; 2-9-2020

*Is my pursuit of happiness in God through the righteousness of Christ alone something that should impact what I do with my money?*

Biblical giving is *giving by faith*: giving as an expression of faith or trust in God.

### **Two Ways of Looking at This**

- This is a lesson on *sacrificial giving*.
- This is a lesson on *religion robbing the poor*. (Health and Wealth Gospel) – Philippians 4:11-13
- Though there is truth in the latter, the commentary of the Lord Jesus seems to point more clearly in the direction of the former. – Mark 12:43-44

### **Three Kinds of Giving**

- Widow Giving*: Out of money needed for basic necessities (sacrificial giving – it costs us in terms of basic needs)
- Common People Giving*: Out of money wanted for comfortable living (honor giving – to remember Who owns it all and to honor Him)
- Rich Giving*: Out of money left over when our needs are met and our lives are comfortable ('out of surplus'; idol giving – necessary to be generous and to fight the love of money) – Mark 12:41-42

What can we say about Biblical giving (*giving by faith*) in light of this passage as a whole?

#### **1. Giving by faith is not about creating your image.**

#### **2. Giving by faith is contrary to being a 'taker.'**

- '*devour widows' houses*' (47) = practices which resulted in loss to widows, the most defenseless group of the day (Morris)

#### **3. Giving by faith may involve large or small sums.**

- '*treasury*' (1) = section of the Temple area in the Court of the Women with 13 trumpet-shaped collection boxes each with an inscription indicating the use to which its contents would be put (Morris)
- '*poor widow*' (2) = extremely impoverished

- *‘two small copper coins’* (2) = lowest denomination in circulation (Sproul)

#### **4. Giving by faith is to be regular and proportionate.**

It is very probable that the widow gave what she did because it was her regular practice of giving as prescribed in the OT. But whether this is true or not, it is the Biblical practice. (Proverbs 3:9-10; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2) And typically, the Bible calls us to give (freewill offerings) ‘proportionately’ – in light of what we have. (Deuteronomy 16:10; 2 Corinthians 8:11-12)

#### **5. Giving by faith may be sacrificial.**

Most of the time, we are to give out of our abundance, but sometimes we might give out of our poverty.

- *‘out of their surplus’* (4) = with some left over (Morris)
- *‘out of her poverty’* (4) = with nothing left over (Morris)

The Macedonians gave out of their poverty. But Paul does not tell the Corinthians to do what the Macedonians did! But he does tell them to give with the same kind of heart! (2 Corinthians 8:1-15)

#### **6. Giving by faith involves a heart for God-glorifying ministry.**

The Lord Jesus’ commendation of the widows’ gift opens the door for the probability that she gave out of a heart for God and His ministry in the temple, not simply out of legalism or guilt or fear. (2 Corinthians 9:6-12; Matthew 6:19-21; Luke 12:33-35)

#### **7. Giving by faith is a matter of recognizing our ultimate dependence on God and reward from God.**

Certainly, the widow gave all she had with trust in God that He would meet her needs. (Luke 12:22-34)

#### **Application**

- Are we sinning if we give nothing to the church we are a part of? Yes. (Galatians 6:6-10)
- Are we sinning if we don’t give, at least, 10%? No. (2 Corinthians 8:12-15)
- Does God want us to give all our money away? No. (Ephesians 4:28; 1 Thessalonians 4:10b-12)
- Does God want us to make sure we save enough money to eliminate the possibility of our being in need in the future? No. (Luke 12:15-21)
- Do we have to give ‘until it hurts’? No, but there are times when we might. (2 Corinthians 8:1-6)
- Should a heart for God and the ministry of His church move us to give? Yes. (2 Corinthians 9:6-12)