

“There Is a Difference”

Are you consecrated to God?

Luke 20:41-21:4

Committed believers are easy to spot by their understanding of:

I. Position - “his son” (verses 41-44)

Knowing our position in relation to the:

A. Scripture – “book of Psalms”

- to attend to carefully, take care of
- to undergo something
- to be subservient to it

*** I John 2:3-5**

B. Struggle – “enemies thy footstool”

- Yes, God will protect us, but
- Yes, God will use us to reach our enemies

*** Colossians 1:19-22**

C. Son- “calleth Him Lord”

*** Romans 1:3-4**

II. Piety-“for a shew” (verses 45-47)

Knowing the difference concerning:

A. Pride – “long robes, highest seats”

- Pride verses Humility
 - Jesus example is serving and humility
 - Philippians 2:5-9a
 - James 4:10
 - We work on humility – God lifts us up- giving us honor

B. Power – “devour widows’ houses”

Power = authority = opportunity

- How is power to be used?
- To make it better for others – not to lord over them.
- God has given us all some opportunity to exert power --- who are we helping with it? Who are we hurting with it?

• Matthew 20:25-28

C. *Persona* – “make long prayers”

- a person's perceived or evident personality, as that of a well-known official, actor, or celebrity; personal image; public role.
- the mask or façade presented to satisfy the demands of the situation

** Matthew 6:4-18 – the passage before the one that ends with verse 33 – Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God

Says:

- Give in Private
- Pray in Private
- Fast in Private
 - WHY ???
 - So the Father will reward thee openly.
 - If we don't we have our reward by having others think well of us.

III. Participation - “cast in” (verses 1-4)

Knowing God's perspective of:

A. *Size* – does bigger mean better?

Two mites = 1-2 hours pay at minimum wage

- It is important for us to consider the size of our giving
- It is more important that we consider the fact that all in the passage today are giving. The widow did not say, “Since I can't do much, I will not do anything.”

B. *Significance* – “more than they all”

- More money? No way...
- More times? Nope...
- More significance – yes, her gift will amount to more.
 - God will do more with a gift sincerely given.
 - God will bless more the gift and the giver, when it is given from the heart of worship.

C. *Sacrifice* – “penury”

- She gave when it would seem impossible to give.
- She was not looking for an excuse, but for a way to give.
- Compare this to II Corinthians 8:2-3
 - The passage says that willingness and desire to give and give a lot is the catalyst to great giving. It seems to indicate that when we have decided to give if God supplies what we want to give, God helps us give more.