

KINGS NORTON BAPTIST CHURCH

Sunday 29th May 2022 10 am

The poor widows “She put in everything”

Welcome to all

Opening Scripture

Hymn MP 1141 You’re the word of God the Father

Scripture Psalm 84 (page 595)

Prayer

Children’s talk

Chorus MP 998 Jesus what a beautiful Name

Notices

Ukrainian appeal on 12th June,
Trip to Heritage centre on June 4th

Fellowship lunch on second Sunday 12th June as the two Interns arrive.

Next Sunday Pentecost and HRH Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee
Booktable on Friday with leaflets

Prayer time

Reading Mark 12:41-44 (page 1018) (See also Luke 21:1-4)

Hymn MP 499 O happy Day

Sermon Love for God “She put in everything”

Hymn MP 25 All to Jesus I surrender

Closing Prayer: Jude 20-23,25

Close

Prayer & Exordium

■ Titanic those who went back for their jewels and perished.

✚ Lot’s wife who looked back on all she had stored up for herself in that wicked City of Sodom and as she looked back longingly she was turned into a pillar of salt. Remember her we are told, remember her!

There we see hearts captive, in bondage, to the things of this world. Not so with this woman, this poor widow. Here is a free and happy woman.

She is like a young child who loves her parents and trust them to provide all her needs. She bounds off to school with a happy contented heart. Should there be a poor man on the way she can give her little pocket money away – all of it.

Jesus commended this poor widow for her giving, she gave everything. x2 Why? Why was she willing to give everything? Because she trusted God for everything. The more I trust - the more I am willing to give. The less I trust - the more I hold back.

God as father promises to provide everything we need through His Son Jesus. He now requires us to trust him completely - for everything.

So are we learning about trust? Yes. And faith? Yes. And love? Yes. And giving? Yes. And obedience? Yes. Is it about practical living? Yes. And yes, it is about not being a hypocrite. Yes all of these things.

I am very exercised and challenged by the example of this woman.

The situation

Let us look at the situation Jesus used to teach the disciples this lesson. The passage is found in Luke 21:1-4 and also here in Mark 12:41-44.

The place is the temple in Jerusalem. Jesus spent a fair amount of time within its courts teaching all who were there. In the previous chapter in both accounts the main people in view are the Teachers of the Law.

“41 Jesus sat down opposite – or in front of - the place where the offerings were put, that is the treasury. This was in the court of the women. See Mt 21:12. In that court there were fixed a number of places or coffers, made with a large open mouth, in the shape of a trumpet, for the purpose of receiving the offerings of the people; and the money thus contributed was devoted to the service of the temple — for incense, sacrifice, and gifts to the poor.

Jesus sat down **and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury.** **And watched,** Jesus watches, he looks on to see

Many come past who throw in large amounts, but then comes ⁴² a **poor widow**. She was a widow, and surely the poorest widow in all the city that day. But she had this - that she was rich toward God, and that He was rich toward her. For she loved the house of God. She was another Anna. Only, Anna lodged in the precincts of the temple, and was there night and day, whereas this poor widow somehow and somewhere had an impoverished house of her own.

"O God, you are my God," she kept saying to herself all the way up from her own poor house with the two mites in her hand; Was she singing from Psalm 63 "My soul will be satisfied as with the richest of foods; with singing lips my mouth will praise you. On my bed I remember you; I think of you through the watches of the night." Ps 63:5,6 Surely she was the happiest woman alive. But no-one noticed, in all the busy throng no-one noticed.

Many rich people threw in large amounts. Clang, clang, clang those wide mouths trumpets, would have amplified the sound. It would be tremendously noisy like walking into an arcade, the row of one armed bandits with their metal trays clattering with the dropping coins.

⁴² **But this poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a fraction of a penny.**

Two mites. The word is 'lepta' the smallest in use among the Jews, it's a small coin made of brass (brass is a mix of copper and tin). The AV says it is worth a *farthing*. A farthing was ¼ of a penny, an old penny that = 1/10th of our new penny. NIV says *a fraction of a penny*, the word is 'Kodrantēs' or quadrant the smallest Roman coin.

These small coins may have hit the sides with the slightest zing lost in the bustle. Or did they drop down the middle with no sound at all. Did people see her walk past and assumed she had given nothing?

Maybe no-one saw – But Christ saw, Jesus is watching, he knew, and he thought 'it may only be *two mites*,' but as a gift of love it exceeded all the rest: *She has cast in more than they all.* Christ commended her liberality, her willingness to part with what little she had for the glory of God.

Jesus looks at the heart; he sees what principles you act upon, the reasoning, in your giving he knows what it is that prompts you to give – and he knows what arguments you use when you don't give. And when you do give whether we do it as unto the Lord, or only to be seen of men.

Jesus is using this woman to teach the disciples an important unforgettable..

Lesson

1. He had done this before - At the house of Simon the pharisee, before all those round the table Jesus commended the woman who wiped his feet with hair and wet them with her tears. 'She', he says 'loves much, for she has been forgiven much'.
2. Then there is the woman with the alabaster jar of very expensive ointment, the best she had, which she poured out on the Lord's head.
3. Here now is this widow. And before you think they are all women there is later Cornelius, a generous man commended by an angel as his gifts to the poor had come up before God.

✦ **God who was watching then – is the God who is watching now.**

⁴³ **Calling his disciples to him**, Jesus wants to teach them something important said, "**I tell you the truth, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others.**

Did she put in '**more**' than **all the others**? No, not at all, Not in monetary terms, far from it. It was measly in its value.

■ **When you give to a building project say at school or maybe financing a civic amenity, give a large amount and your name is on a plaque for generous donors, or inscribed on a brick. Lesser ones are publicly acknowledged maybe listed on some role, this woman would not have even received a thank you letter!**

This would impress no-one. The amount could help no-one. Was it even an insult to give so little, did the temple authorities – like the poppy appeal have a 'suggested donation'. So is the eye of man. Not with God. x2 Jesus commends this woman with no name. **she has put more into the treasury than all the others.**

God looks at things differently – do you look at things the way God does? for God looks at the heart.

⁴⁴ **"They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on."**

In other words her giving cost her. For the others it was easy, it required no leaning on the Lord to provide. It required no exercise of faith. Just like wiping the froth off the top of a coffee. Easily done.

David said "**I will not sacrifice a burnt offering that costs me nothing.**" 1 Ch 21:24

So she is commended, not they. Her act of devotion, her act of love meant that she is the one who is rich.

✚ How many are rich materially but paupers when it comes to the things of God.

What made her to give all she had? "Why?" Why did she do it?

Why did she give so much in proportion to what she had - giving all she had to live on. The simple answer is that she trusted God completely.

In her poverty and trouble she had learned a great truth, that she could trust God for everything, x2. She fully entrusted her life to him – and therefore she entrusted all she had to him as well.

Don't miss the connection - she gave herself – which meant she could give all she had – in fact it is no longer hers's it is giving back to God what is his.

Like a child buys a present for mum with the money she has given her.

Her giving was the result of a dependence upon God's providence to take care of her. She knew that God was *Jehovah-jireh - the Lord will provide* x2. She knew it not only in her head - but in her life - In her experience.

She trusted his promises, she took him at his word, and she proved him.

Jesus at all times trusted his father and how well we see this in the shadow of the cross. There on his knees in the garden of Gethsemane, there the battle of the cross was fought. It is the hardest of battles, it is the battle of self-will. Jesus said: **"not my will, but your will be done"**.

Once he had given himself over to the will of the father - there was then no other big decision to make. Everything else would follow.

If you want to know the riches of God - and the hope of heaven then you to must give up yourself. The everything else will follow. Jesus said: **"any of you who does not give up everything he has cannot be my disciple."** Lk 14:33

- You may well have noticed that the corner shop up the road has a large sign outside saying "under new management". When the new manager took over the shop – he took over all of it. He did not just take over the shelves on the left, or at the back of the shop, he did not just take over the freezer section, No he took over all of it.

So it is when someone comes to Christ. Only those who have Jesus Christ as Lord are truly under new management. To do that you have to see yourself as a sinner. See that your sin has grieved God and hidden Him from you – and you from Him.

Turn away from self, and your own way. You cannot serve two masters, you cannot serve both Jesus Christ and yourself. Seek forgiveness and give up all claims to yourself.

3a

Jesus the Holy Son of God gave his all on the cross to make it possible for you to do that.

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich. 2 Cor 8:9. If you have been made rich will you give all back to Him?

If you are holding back then ask yourself "have I given myself wholly over to Christ? Do I really belong to Him? You are not saved without the crisis of conversion, the breaking down of me, the surrender to Him, His will, His Lordship. *That willingness to live under the Lordship of Christ is the mark of being saved, and .: a requirement for church membership here.*

✚ This is not a verbal "I trust you" but a real in practice "I trust you"

Let us be clear about this, there are many people who profess some sort of faith in Christ, but it is obvious to see that - despite what they say - they have no real trust in him - or love for Him. They are no more saved from God's judgment than the people next door, down the street or anyone else who has no interest in the Christ.

God constant challenged those who professed faith in Him – but didn't really trust him – He said they had: **"committed two sins: They have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water."** Jeremiah 2:13

The tragedy of this unbelief is that it is repeated again, and again and again. God provides they forget, God rebukes they turn, for a moment - then forget. When there is a problem or disaster we call out for help, "If you will get me out of this hole I will not honour you with all my life, I promise - then forget. This is a life of unbelief. There may be words from your lips – but no heart.

✚ This is a verbal "I trust you" but then in practice "I don't trust you"

- The news about rising prices, that new high heating bill comes through, what is the first thought in your mind? It is OK 'I have enough money in the bank?' I should think "Lord I trust you for this"
- When you hear you have a tooth abscess or stomach pains do you immediately think "the NHS should be able to take care of this or I have enough money to go private" or do you think "Lord you know, you are able to heal me directly, or maybe through the medical profession or if it is your will give me the grace to continue with it, through it, with you".

I know you say "I believe" but this is to live as an atheist, = it's hypocrisy!.

3b

Trust Jesus with your life x2. All of it. Jesus as God does not just have the right to some parts of your life while you manage the rest - if He is lord of all – he is not Lord at all!

Some ringfence areas of their lives, this part is “out of bounds” don’t go there. I won’t be told what to do: with my time, or my energy, or what I watch, or the things I spend my money on. As they say for some the last thing to be converted is a man’s wallet, or a woman’s purse. The more we fail to do what we know we should do the less we are inclined to do it. This is the life of unbelief.

This widow who had no husband, no means of support trusted God’s promises fully to supply her need. That is why she could give everything. She knew that God would meet her every need. So today **“God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.”** Philippians 4:19

✚ Will you trust God’s promises completely?

✚ Jesus called his disciples to him, “come and see I will show you real trust, real faith, real love for God.”

Please do not read this passage in isolation. Jesus uses the whole context of this passage to make his point clear through a glaring contrast.

He says: **“Beware of the teachers of the law. They like to walk around in flowing robes and love to be greeted in the market-places and have the most important seats in the synagogues and the places of honour at banquets. They devour widows’ houses and for a show make lengthy prayers.”** Luke 20:46-47

They are proud, they are greedy, and they take advantage of the weak – like this widow. But God is watching **“Such men will be punished most severely.”**

Let’s sum up –

Jesus looked to see how much people gave - so he is looking at you and I.

He is watching - what will it be? When he has been so generous to you – how generous now are you to him? what sacrifices are you making for him? Are you behind the Lord’s work? How is your Lord’s Day offering?

What will you give? What will you hold back? Do you live modestly, - and sacrificially - so that there is more released for Kingdom work?

Jesus is looking on to see if you give largely and liberally, in proportion to what you have, or whether you are sneaking and paltry. He sees behind this, is there a willing heart? or is every gift given grudgingly and with reluctance. Remember **By the measure you use, so it will be given to you**

Remember the purse that remains full will leave you with an empty heart!

While this poor widow is really rich, and she is happy!

Why did she give her last coin? Because she had given herself first.

✚ **The more the trust - the more the looseness with things. Give yourself - and the rest will follow.**

That day she cast her money was a secret day, without once lifting her eyes off the temple steps she cast her contribution into the temple-chest and passed on into the temple to offer her morning prayer, and then went down to her own house. It was up to her if she went, no-one would notice her absence, but she went because she wanted to, to show her love for God. She had seen nobody, she had spoken to nobody, and nobody had seen or spoken to her. And she does not know to this day what we know. Nor will she know till that day when everything shall be known and made manifest.

But that gift was stored up for her, invested for her to give great returns in heaven waiting for her. She will be before many and have the light of God on her.

A Turkish lady Ozel says: I just found Jesus recently and how my eyes have opened up. Thank you, thank you, thank you. I love you Jesus, God, friends, family.

✚ **Yes what the Lord desires is love for God.**

As we read in Psalm 84:

How lovely is your dwelling-place, O LORD Almighty!

2 My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the LORD; my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.

4 Blessed are those who dwell in your house; they are ever praising you.

5 Blessed are those whose strength is in you,

11 For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favour and honour; no good thing does he withhold from those whose walk is blameless. 12 O LORD Almighty, blessed is the man who trusts in you.” (Psalms 84:1-12 NIV)

So here we see this widow. the poorest, but she was rich toward God, and that He was rich toward her.

As Jesus pointed out her life, may he too point out yours.

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