

SERIES	ALL HANDS ON DECK
BIBLE	Luke 21:1-4
TITLE	Giving Hands (Generosity)
OVERVIEW	<p>It's not the church that is after your money, it's God who is after your heart. Giving is a spiritual matter. It is our worship to God in light of ALL that He has done for us. Our giving should be done in faith and with sacrifice to God alone for He alone is worthy of both our faith and sacrifice.</p>
SCRIPTURE BREAKDOWN	<p>GIVING IN FAITH KEEPS A RIGHT PRIORITY LUKE 21:1-2</p> <p>The Scriptures tell us that Jesus saw what everyone gave. However, Jesus saw something that no one else could see. He saw what they gave in contrast to what they kept.</p> <p>He is interested in the proportion, not the portion—how much is left and not how much is given.¹</p> <p>Highlighting the widow in chapter 21 is a continuation of ch 20 where Jesus warns about being like the scribes. It was a contrast of what is desired and acceptable verses what is not desired or acceptable. Jesus looked at what the widow gave in contrast to what she had and “saw” faith!</p> <p>The giving that Jesus is “looking” for is the one that is done in faith.</p> <p>The most common practice in giving is this equation: How much do I make or have minus what I need to live (bills, debt, saving, entertainment) = a left over sum. This is then what we then say ok God now I can give to you. By a natural standpoint this sounds logical and sound but this is actually a backwards priority that removes the need for faith.</p> <p>Faith helps us keep a right priority sequence. Sequence is crucial. MATTHEW 6:33 Here we are given a priority that is backwards to our regular logic. It's not me first.. it's God first! This isn't a word against planning or budgeting... it's an issue of priority in that plan! PROVERBS 3:9-10</p> <p>We give first to God. In our plans we seek God first. Because we BELIEVE that He is in control and will provide.</p>

¹ Warren W. Wiersbe, [Wiersbe's Expository Outlines on the New Testament](#) (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1992), 196.

The widow may have been poor, but in terms of life she was wealthier than the wealthy because her priorities were right.²

MAN LOOKS AT AMOUNT GOD LOOKS AT SACRIFICE

LUKE 21:3

Jesus next makes a statement that doesn't make sense. He said this widow put in more than ALL of them. But she only gave two coins worth a fraction of a penny?

Because Jesus sees what we give in contrast to what we keep he sees not the size of the portion but the sacrifice in our giving.

ILLUSTRATION:

Fundraisers usually recognize top donors. Joe Rich gave 1 Million dollars to the foundation... where does his name go? On the screen at the top.

Average Joe gave 100 dollars, where does his name go? Not even mentioned.

It is our natural bend to measure the amount. But Jesus measures differently, he measures in the amount of sacrifice.

Everyone else: Great amount given / no sacrifice given

Widow: Smallest amount / 100% sacrifice

This is exactly what God "sees"

GOD ALONE IS WORTHY OF OUR FAITH AND SACRIFICE

LUKE 21:4

For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on."

The widow is an example to us.

If a person gives \$1k but has 1Million, it is of no consequence to give the 1K. It doesn't require a sacrifice on his behalf.

But what about the person who gives \$100 dollars but only has \$150 dollars! Whoa that is gonna hurt... how is he going to eat? Provide? Live!?

But the widow knew exactly who she was giving to. She was giving to the Lord.

ILLUSTRATION:

3 boys arguing about who's dad is the greatest.

1st boy – My Dad is the best he scribbles on a paper, calls it a song and they pay him 500 dollars for it.

2nd boy – My Dad is the best, he scribbles on a paper calls it a business agenda and they pay him 5000 dollars for it.

² Darrell L. Bock, "Luke," in *Holman Concise Bible Commentary*, ed. David S. Dockery (Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1998), 457.

	<p>3rd boy – My Dad is the best, he scribbles on a paper calls it a sermon, and it takes 8 people to carry the money out.</p> <p>The moment we believe that we are giving to a pastor or a sermon or a show we have misplaced our giving.</p> <p>When we give, it is not primarily to a church. It is to God alone.</p> <p>Jesus is looking for those that give in faith trusting Him for what's next. That make plans wisely by seeking God first in those plans. That in the priority of love give to God first not self first.</p> <p>Jesus is looking for those that give out of sacrifice. That are willing to forfeit some of the luxuries they could have to give to God.</p> <p>King David said it best...</p> <p>2 SAMUEL 24:24</p> <p>...I will not offer burnt offerings to the LORD my God that cost me nothing.”</p> <p>Jesus not only teaches us how to give through the widow's story, He lets us “see” Him do it.</p>
GOSPEL	<p>Just a few days later would be Passover, and Jesus would give His life to be beaten, broken, shamed, rejected, and crucified to GIVE us forgiveness of sins. He would give His life so that we could gain eternal life in a right relationship with the Father!</p> <p>When we give, we are giving to the one who gave to us first. Only King Jesus is worthy of your faith and your sacrifice.</p> <p>That is why we give and to whom we give.</p>
NEXTSTEPS	<p>Use faith to give, choose to sacrifice for King Jesus who gave His life for you. Challenge yourself to give to God faithfully first.</p>