

We are **so blessed** to **have** a **Giving Church** here

We've **invested MORE** in the **Kingdom of God**
than **many churches** much **bigger** than **ours**

We **have** the **incredible blessing** of having **super low overhead**

AND we have **Christians** who **understand** that **Giving**
is a **crucial part** of **following Christ**

& **BECAUSE** of **those two things**
we've **been able** to **bear fruit** far **beyond** our **size**

& **it's been** one of my **greatest blessings** to **watch** & **be part of**

It's **often said** – *Jesus talked more about your money
than about heaven and hell combined*

In fact – **15% of everything Jesus said**
has to **do** with **Your Money**

& **if** you **go** “**Cover to Cover**” in **the Bible**
there are **over 2,000 vs's** that **address** your **MONEY**

But **often**, it's the **last thing**
we **want to hear** about **in Church**

But the Bible is Painfully Clear

there is a **Fundamental Connection**
between our **Spiritual Lives** – and **OUR MONEY**

So **-we're going** to **look today** at **just FOUR Vs's**
(out of the **2,000 vs's** in the **Bible**) **about** our **Money**

This is just a **Small Fraction** (one occurrence)
of **all that Jesus** - **& the NT** – **teaches** about money

We've done quite a few msgs on GIVING (*say them for the record*)

- **The Treasure Principle**
- **A Giving Heart in Hard Times**
- **Great, He's Talking About Money**
- **Approaching Money**
- **The Money Pit**
- **Giving to the Lord**

You can **SEARCH** them all
on the **WBM Phone App** - or **CCN Website**

AND – If you'd **really like** to **learn MORE** about **GIVING**
IF you are willing to **read**

You can **CALL the church office** at **951-928-8582**
(get it on the **website**)

& ask us to send you ONE of the Best Books
I've read on Giving - & we'll send it to you FREE

It's called The Treasure Principle, by Randy Alcorn (*show it*)
Call us, & we'll send it to you

& if you'll Read It – It will help you understand
What God says about

How your MONEY TALKS

Please don't be a Christian who AVOIDS this subject

& pls don't "Hold On To" or "Protect" - your own opinions,
your own approach, and your own ideas about Money

Have the courage to find out WHAT GOD SAYS
About How your MONEY TALKS

Let's Pray

What we are about to read – is the LAST THING that Jesus did
Before Leaving the Temple – For the LAST TIME

Jesus STARTED this FINAL "BATTLE to the Death"
with the Religious Leaders – about MONEY

When he Physically RAN the Money-Makers
out of the Temple Courts

& Today – Jesus finishes this Battle
with the Same Subject – MONEY

The Final Words that Jesus Christ Speaks – In the Most
Significant Religious Place on Earth - Are about MONEY

& it is NOT a CASUAL MENTION of Money

It is a Pre-Determined - FOCUSED Commitment

To WATCH People GIVE
& to HEAR their MONEY TALK

Mark 12:41(a) (NLT)

41 Jesus sat down near (across from) the collection box in the Temple and watched as the crowds dropped in their money . . .

Before Jesus leaves the Temple for the Last time

He purposely heads to the area
called "The Temple Treasury"

& in this area - of the Temple Courts
there were 13 CHESTS

**Each with a BRASS Trumpet-Shaped
"Collection Receptacle"**

Where people could literally
THROW their offering coins

& **THE COINS** would **CLANG against** the **brass trumpet**
as they **fell down** into the **Offering Chest**

Unfortunately making for
a **very PUBLIC Display** – of **GIVING**

& so – **Jesus chose** a **spot** - **across** from **these chests**

& he **WATCHED** - as the **people Dropped** (or **Tossed**)
their **offering coins** into the **Brass Trumpets**

& **I think** the first **Revelation Truth** here is
Jesus is Purposefully WATCHING people Give

& **Jesus** is **Still Today**
Purposefully Watching Us Give

Jesus is **watching** us **Give**
Because - **Our MONEY TALKS**

AS WE GIVE - Our Giving is SPEAKING
> The **Condition of our Heart** - toward **GOD**
> The **Condition of our Heart** – toward **MONEY**

I know **we don't like** to **HEAR THAT**
But That is **Exactly** - **what** the **Bible Teaches**

& so (cont'g) – the end of v.41 says

Mark 12:41(b) (NLT)

41 . . . Many rich people put in large amounts.

Now - Jesus is not *automatically*
Approving OR Disapproving

of the people putting in large amounts
(because Jesus knows each heart individually)

He's really just setting up a CONTRAST

BETWEEN those who threw **FISTFULS of Money**
into the **Brass Trumpets**

AND a **Poverty-Stricken Widow** who is **about to give**
a Very, Very Small Amount of Money

Remember THE M.I.P. Today (**Most Important Point**) - **is this:**

How we **handle** our **MONEY** - & our **GIVING**
Speaks Loudly – about the **True Condition of our Heart**

So – **We're going** to **try** to **Stay Focused**
on **that One Point** – for **this One Msg**

So – Jesus is WATCHING the People Give
& some are giving Large Amounts

& then – in Mark 12:42 (NLT)

42 Then a poor widow came and dropped in two small coins.

Everyone KNEW this widow was poverty-stricken

Because Her Dress & Her Demeaner gave her away

Like a long-time homeless woman
walking into the most Grandiose Church

& These 2 small coins - called LEPTA in Greek
Were the smallest coins made at the time

We're used to hearing them called - "A MITE"
& they were worth MAYBE a Penny today

& you can imagine seeing – a Poverty-Stricken Widow

Looking like what we would describe
as a Homeless Woman

Slipping into the Grandest Cathedral Church

With 13 Brass "Trumpet Receptacles" along the wall
So people can be CLEARLY SEEN Giving

**With the CLANGING of the coins hitting the brass trumpets
ANNOUNCING their Giving**

& the **people watching others give - out of curiosity
like people today watch Celebrities**

& **so this poor widow
would've kept her eyes to the ground**

**WANTING to Sacrificially GIVE
ALL She HAD - to God**

but **NOT WANTING to be seen -
or judged, by the people**

& **she would've slipped up
to one of the Brass Trumpets**

hoping to draw NO ATTENTION to herself

& **as she released her two mites**

they **weren't even heavy enough
to make a sound - as they slid down into the chest**

& **the people - would've either paid her NO MIND
OR paid her a JUDGMENTAL MIND**

BUT JESUS - was WATCHING

& the **WIDOW'S MITES - were TALKING**

THESE two "**Pennies**"

SPOKE to **JESUS** **Loud & Clear**

As they **slid down** the **brass trumpet**
without even **making** a **sound**

& so Mark 12:43 (NLT)

43 Jesus called his disciples to him and said, "I tell you the truth, this poor widow has given more than all the others who are making contributions.

WHY ??

WHAT WAS IT – that **caused Jesus** to say
she had Given MORE than all the others

Was it her HEART?

Yeah, it WAS her heart

BUT – HOW did **these Two Pennies**
Speak SO LOUDLY to **Jesus**

ABOUT this **Women's Heart?**

Jesus tells us in - Mark 12:44 (NLT)

44 For they gave a tiny part of their surplus, but she, poor as she is, has given everything she had to live on.

She has Given **EVERYTHING she had to live on**

<p><u>What Jesus</u> is <u>COMMENDING</u> Here Is the <u>LEVEL of SACRIFICE</u> – in <u>this Gift!</u></p>
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It was **Passover** (the **most important** of all **Jewish Festivals**)

& **this Impoverished Widow** found a **way**
to **Tangibly Say** to God

***“I love you Lord, with ALL that I have
and ALL that I have is Yours”***

Those **Two Pennies**
SCREAMED OUT that **Woman’s Heart** to the Lord

& **we might say**, “If **these 2 Pennies** were **all she had** to **live on** –
why did she give them both?”

She could’ve given **just ONE** – that **would’ve been**
a **50% TITHE** of **all** that she had”

& **THEN** she **would’ve** had **ONE PENNY** - **left for HERSELF**

Because THAT’S how **WE THINK**

BUT - The contrast here – Is EXTREME

When Jesus says (v.44)

some gave a tiny part of their surplus

IT MEANS

They gave an amount They would NEVER MISS

They gave an amount that

would have NO IMPACT on their lives

**& I think that's the key to understanding
what Jesus is teaching here**

**Some gave what they would never miss
& one gave all she had**

We could put that on a SCALE today – Couldn't we?

On **ONE END** of the **scale** is

Some gave what they would never miss

On the **OTHER END** of the **scale** is

one gave all she had

**The Question is - Where are YOU – on that Scale Today?
& Where am I?**

On the Scale of

**Giving What we would Never Miss – On One End
& Giving ALL we Have – On the Other End**

Where do we fit?

And – **Have you ever even considered the Question?
Because, honestly, most Christians have not**

THE TRUTH IS – especially in the Western Church

**Most Christians Give whatever they feel
will NOT REALLY IMPACT their lives**

Too often – the question that drives our Giving is

**“What can we AFFORD to give and NOT HAVE TO
Really Sacrifice anything in our lives**

**That is NOT the approach to giving
that Jesus is Applauding here**

Because – A **Sacrifice to God** – is **CALLED a Sacrifice**
Because you Have to SACRIFICE something

& What Jesus is pointing to here

IS SACRIFICIAL GIVING

Study after study - continues to show

that the average amount Church going Christians GIVE
is around 2% of their income

Because most of us can
“AFFORD” to give 1 or 2 percent

Without really having to
SACRIFICE Anything for God

But – this Poor Widow’s SACRIFICIAL GIVING
Is what SCREAMED across the Temple Courts
From Her TWO PENNIES - To the HEART of GOD

The ONLY Difference
Between this Widow
& those that Jesus Compared her to

Is the Amount of SACRIFICE

& her Sacrificial Giving
SCREAMED out to the Lord

What (or WHO) was important to her
& Exactly WHERE God Fit – In her life

Listen Pls – I'm **NOT telling you** to **GO SELL everything**
& **Give** your **LAST 2 PENNIES** to **the Lord** and **be HOMELESS**

I'm **trying** to **help** you **focus**
on **one incredible truth** that **Jesus** is **teaching here**

THIS Particular Lesson
Is about **SACRIFICIAL GIVING**

& **my Prayer** is - that **it will give** you **the COURAGE**
to **really LOOK** at what the **Bible Says** about **Giving**

NOT JUST Here - But **Thru-out God's Word**

I **really want** to **Encourage You** – to **DIG IN**
to **what** the **Bible says** about **GIVING**

Listen to **THE MSG'S** I **listed** at **the Beginning**

& **Call** the **church office** and **ask for**
"The Treasure Principle" Book

& the **ONE THING** that **I Pray**
we would **Really Hear** & **Receive today** - is **THIS:**

Your Money TALKS

What you DO with **your MONEY**
SPEAKS about - **what's important** to **you**

**AND – What you DO with your MONEY
SPEAKS about - where God truly FITS in your life**

**& Honestly – we DON'T WANT our Money
to DO OUR TALKING on these Matters**

We WANT TO SAY – What's Important to us
We WANT TO SAY – Where God Fits in our Lives

But – the Bible is clear
How we FEEL about our Money
What we DO with our Money - &
How we GIVE our Money

Is what Truly REVEALS our Heart – about Money & God

So – Our MONEY TALKS

& it is Revealing the Condition of our Heart – in this area

BUT – ARE WE Willing to Listen

**What we DO with our MONEY - & Our GIVING
will TELL US . . .**

- What's Most Important in our life
- What We Actually Worship
- Where Our Heart IS GOING

Matthew 6:19–21 (NLT)

19 Don't store up treasures here on earth . . .

20 Store your treasures in heaven . . .

21 Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.

Your MONEY - & your GIVING - will TELL you

WHERE your Heart is TODAY &

WHERE Your Heart is GOING TO BE

Listen to your MONEY TALK

Because GOD IS

Let's Pray