Luke 21:1-4 5-6-07

## "The Appraiser!"

## 1. Intro:

- 1.1. Communion (after 2<sup>nd</sup> song) [1 Kings 8:37-38; 39]
- 1.2. **Remote controls** have more & more buttons on them these days.
  - 1.2.1. It was only a few months ago, I learned what the PIP button was.
  - 1.2.2. Problem: was a different channel playing in the middle of the screen.
    1.2.2.1. It is "Picture-In-a-Picture."
    - 1.2.2.2. It gives the ability to view 2 things on the screen.
  - 1.2.3. Today I'm clicking on the PIP button as we read Luke 21:1-4 This is the **Disciples**' picture w/in **Jesus**' picture. [Read text]
    - 1.2.3.1. **The widow** gives a great picture of **true religion**, & **the rich** a great picture of **false religion**.

## 2. **WIDOWS MITES!** (1-4)

- 2.1. [1] The Disciples saw rich people giving; Jesus saw a poor widow sacrificing!
- 2.2. Story Remember the story of the **Pig** and a **chicken** that were looking for work? They came upon a church sign which was advertising a breakfast be held in a few days. At the bottom of the sign the menu was given, it read "Help needed to serve breakfast with Ham and eggs. Apply for job here". The **chicken** turned to the **pig** and said, "Hey let's help out with this breakfast. I'm willing to give my eggs!" "Yes," said the pig, "but yours is only a **contribution**, mine is a **SACRIFICE**."
- 2.3. Sacrifice I've been on the receiving end of sacrifice:
  - 2.3.1. Fatted sheep in Etropole, Bulgaria killed for my supper; Fatted Pig in PI; Ceviche in Davao Bajao/Sea Gypsies; Box of choc's in Ukraine.
- 2.4. The **religious leaders** were interested in all they could **get** out of life. **She** was interested in what she could **give** in life. <sup>1</sup>
  - 2.4.1. She was the most famous giver ever!
- 2.5. [2] The Disciples saw Portions; Jesus saw Proportion!
- 2.6. He noticed & appreciated her gift, not because of the **size** but because of her **generosity**.
- 2.7. It's not just *what we give*, but *what we give* in relation to what we have.
  - 2.7.1. Illus. It's the difference between handing out coats to the homeless that were donated. Then, **running out** when **still one was needed**, & you take off your brand new coat & hand it to him.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Phillips; pg.246

- 2.7.1.1. That's proportion. Giving from what **you had**, rather than from what **others had**.
- 2.7.2. Winston Churchill, "We make a <u>living</u> by what we **get**, but we make a <u>life</u> by what we **give**!"
- 2.8. Check out 2 Cor.8:8-15 (esp.13,14 equality twice)
  - 2.8.1. The early Christians always gave out of there **poverty**.
  - 2.8.2. It's not more spiritual to be poor, that isn't our goal.
  - 2.8.3. But **equality** seems to be God's heart. (Ex.16:18 manna)
  - 2.8.4. So it's not how can we take ourselves **down** towards poor level, but how can we bring them **above** the poverty line.
- 2.9. **Ronald Sider** says, in *Rich Christians in an age of Hunger*. (Read pg.1,2)
  - 2.9.1. "Will we continue to toss crumbs from our table to the poor, instead of giving them a seat at the table?" Yonce Shelton
- 2.11. [3] The Disciples saw how much; Jesus saw how much was left!
- 2.12. "God's estimate of benevolence takes in not only what is **given** but what is **reserved**." George Bliss
- 2.13. The depth of her poverty?
  - 2.13.1.  $1^{st}$  word in vs.2 is [ $\pi$  **penichros**] it was the very general term for poor (living day by day).
  - 2.13.2.  $2^{nd}$  word in vs.3, by Jesus, was [ $\pi$  ptochos'] "It is more than poverty; it signifies destitution, abject poverty." LKGNT
- 2.14. "When you start with **nothing** & **give something**, you wind up giving more than those who start with **something** & **give little**." Todd Stiles
- 2.15. [4] The Disciples saw it as the least; Jesus saw it as the most!
- 2.16. Those who give "the widow's mite" give their all, not their least.
  - 2.16.1. This is how many live still today. Taking all they have for the next 24 hours, to maintain life. She gave hers to God.
- 2.17. She put in more than *all* not more than *one* of them, but *all* of the rich combined!
  - 2.17.1. **Figuratively**, Jesus was emptying the 13 vessels, & calculating & counting up all the shekels that were there, gold & silver both, & placing them on his heavenly scales.
  - 2.17.2. This is not possible **mathematically**, but it is **spiritually**! Why?
    2.17.2.1.Because God has a way of taking **little** things, & making them **big** things! {all I have are these 5 loaves & 2 fish, but what are these?}

- 2.17.3. Example: 1 Kings 17:8-16 Elijah & the Widow.
- 2.18. [5] The Disciples saw people giving many things; Jesus saw a widow giving everything!
- 2.19. It seems like she was "1 mite away from never being heard of!"
  - 2.19.1. She could have kept one back, but gave both.
  - 2.19.2. She just showed us how to "love the LORD your God with <u>all</u> our heart, with <u>all</u> our soul, with <u>all</u> our mind, and with <u>all</u> our strength!"
  - 2.19.3. "If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing." But if I give a penny w/the widow's heart...it is great gain to me & to God!
- 2.20. She dropped in far more than a mite. When she gave those 2 copper coins, she was giving everything. [Be clear this **isn't** a **financial** issue, it's an **everything** issue!]
  - 2.20.1. Yes everything! She had nothing to fall back on, nothing to rely on.
  - 2.20.2. She gave her next meal, her next wardrobe, her next gift for a friend.
  - 2.20.3. She has nothing left. No more resources. No more savings.
  - 2.20.4. Yet she gave it to the God of all creation. This prompted the Almighty God of the universe to sit up & take notice!
    - 2.20.4.1. Breaking forth through the dark, dreary dullness of that day, a ray of **light**, a ray of **beauty**, a ray of **glory**, busts through.
    - 2.20.4.2. Interesting on the widows mite: **Obverse:** anchor upside-down in circle. **Reverse:** star of eight rays.
  - 2.20.5. Mark 12:44 lets us in on what Jesus was doing.
    - 2.20.5.1. Jesus was a *people watcher*. But not only watching their **actions** but watching their **motives**!
    - 2.20.5.2. The **IRS** really doesn't care what your <u>motive</u> is in giving to them? But **God** cares what your motives are!
    - 2.20.5.3. Hannah said in her prayer in 1 Sam.2:3, "For the LORD is the God of knowledge; And by Him actions are weighed."
    - 2.20.5.4. *Kicking back in the covered colonnade...* watching what people were giving. And knew exactly what each put in the *shofaroth*.
    - 2.20.5.5. (13 trumpet shaped brass receptacles into which offerings were put towards temple expenses, & to meet the needs of the poor)
    - 2.20.5.6. Imagine many coins hitting the brass! It probably sounded like those coin counting machines in the super markets today!
    - 2.20.5.7. The Mishnah said each bore inscriptions designating what the offerings were for: "New Shekel dues", "Old Shekel dues", "Bird Offerings", "Young birds for the whole offering", "Wood", "Frankincense", "Gold for the Mercy-seat", & on 6 of them "Freewill-Offerings". (Shekalim XI.5)

- 2.20.6. Lk.14:33 "...any of you who does not *give up everything he has* cannot be my disciple." [It's a common trait to those who follow Him!]
- 2.20.7. Like Abraham Take your son & offer him on Mt. Moriah.
- 2.20.8. Like Job Shall we accept good from the Lord & not bad?
- 2.20.9. Like Peter, James, & John They left everything & followed Him.
- 2.20.10. Like Paul My whole life is being poured out as a drink offering.
- 2.21. Yes, **sacrifice** is what followers of Jesus do in *the Kingdom Adventure*!
  - 2.21.1. Living as a disciple is a willingness to give!
  - 2.21.2. For example: Give up **my rights** & forgive; give up **control** & pray; give up **my pride** & respond humbly; give up **my stuff** be generous; give up **my authority** & submit to Christ; give up **my love** & reach out to my world. [That's how to give everything, all of me!]
- 2.22. What I have, He claims; what He claims, I yield; What I yield, He takes; what He takes, He fills; What He fills, He uses; what He uses, He keeps; What he keeps,...He satisfies!



Widows Mite/Lepton