

TWO CENTS WORTH **(Mark 12:38-44)**

The question this morning is “How does Jesus view things?” Jesus watches not only our actions but also our motives. What does He see? What is He looking for?

I. JESUS SEES POVERTY IN THE PRIDEFUL (vv. 38-40)

1. These three verses serve as a transition from the previous verses to the final thoughts of verses 41-44.
 - They summarize what Jesus kept trying to tell the disciples to beware of.
2. Scribes wore long white linen as a mark of dignity and honor.
 - They were seated up front in the synagogue facing the crowd.
 - People were expected to rise when they passed on the street.
3. They were financially supported by other people, often those who were poor.
 - And they were accused of taking the money for sordid gain.
 - Jesus said this would be severely punished.
4. It had become a very prideful experience.
 - They practiced religion for self-advancement.
 - Beware of those who Paul warned about in 2 Timothy 3:5.

II. JESUS SEES THE WEALTH OF THE WIDOW (vv. 41-44)

1. Jesus watched as the wealthy passed by and dumped their vast sums into the chests.
 - There was an audible gasp as the shekels crashed into the brass chests.
 - Jesus watched carefully but had nothing to say.
2. Then a poor woman caught Jesus’ attention.
3. The rich and the poor came to the same house.
 - Jesus analyzed beyond the visibly obvious; He was looking at the heart.
 - He called a congregational gathering of His fellow preachers to see it.
4. Jesus commented on her gift. What was the big difference?
 - The wealthy gave out of their surplus; the widow gave all that she had.
 - It wasn’t the portion but the proportion that was important.
5. The heart of the giver is more important than the gift.
 - Jesus sees what we give; He sees our hearts when we give.
6. Jesus can do great things with small offerings.
 - God can do awesome things through any of us who will give Him our whole heart.
7. Jesus will one day square the accounts.
 - God’s heavenly rewards far outweigh the earthly costs.
 - He’s not looking simply at the amount of our gifts but at the heart.

You may be blessed with a lot or a little. Don’t feel bad if you have a lot and don’t feel bad if you have a little. But what does our giving say about our heart? We are called to give Him all of that. That’s what matters most.