

Sermon Text: Mark 12:41-44 ⁴¹ Now Jesus sat opposite the treasury and saw how the people put money into the treasury. And many who were rich put in much. ⁴² Then one poor widow came and threw in two mites, which make a quadrans. ⁴³ So He called His disciples to Himself and said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all those who have given to the treasury; ⁴⁴ "for they all put in out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all that she had, her whole livelihood."

Sermon Theme: Jesus invites us to Come and See the Widow's Offering to the Lord.

- 1. Her offering was 'more' than the other offerings**
- 2. Her offering was given in cheerful response to God's sacrificial love.**
- 3. Her offering was given with trust in the Lord.**

In the name of our Savior Jesus, who made many sacrifices for us so that we could become spiritually and eternally rich, dear fellow redeemed;

The topic of church giving has been known to be a sensitive issue in various congregations. I have heard individuals decry the fact that this or that pastor preaches quite often about contributions to the church. Others have spoken of churches where their leaders come into their homes to find out family income and then proceed to inform them how much they are expected to contribute to the church. Still another unhelpful practice is publishing the amount of money each member of a congregation has given in a certain time frame. Where such practices are in use, I can understand why members are sensitive to and even put off by the talk of money in the church.

Then there is the other extreme where ministers shy away from ever preaching about Christian giving in the church for fear of members being offended by it or the pastor perceived as a money hungry, money grabbing minister.

Both of these extremes are not spiritually healthy for a congregation. And so, by the grace of God we want to achieve a God-pleasing balance in this matter, for the Bible teaching of Christian giving is just one of many doctrines for our life as children of God which we can benefit from. When and where we have fallen short in this area of Christian stewardship, we are willing to hear the Word of God that exposes and reproves us for it. We also delight in hearing the Gospel which motivates us to willingly and cheerfully contribute for the all important work of the Lord.

In the Bible account today, we find the Lord Jesus talking about money and church offerings as He spoke to His disciples about the contributions people were bringing to the temple that day. And since the Holy Spirit moved the evangelist Mark to record this incident for our learning, Jesus also invites us to observe the offerings made that day, and especially the widow's offering to the Lord. By drawing our attention to the widow's contribution Jesus wants us to observe that her offering was more than all the others, that her offering was given in cheerful response to God's sacrificial love, and that her offering