

## **THE IMPORTANCE OF GIVING HUMBLY**

Mark 12:41 ... "Now Jesus sat opposite the treasury and saw how the people put money into the treasury. And many who were rich put in much."

In our previous devotional we discussed the importance of giving financially to the work of the Lord. Today we discuss the importance of giving in humility. Our verse today tells us that Jesus witnessed rich people paying their tithes to the Synagogue. If Jesus was able to see the amounts being given by the rich from across the street, then it must have been quite a spectacle; the wealthy Jews wanted everyone to see how much money they gave.

Your sacrificial and quiet financial gifts to the work of God and the church, are rewarded by God. When you give sacrificially, especially if you are poor, God rewards you because giving is commanded by God and is our act of obedience. Your tithe may not be enough to buy a single candle, or a half cup of rice to feed your pastor, but if it is given in humility, God will honor you for your sacrifice and increase your income so that you can give even more next time.

However, if you tell everyone how much you are giving or brag about the amount you are able to give, your tithe may not be useful to God because you are seeking the praise of men. If you are rich and can give 10,000 Pesos a week to the church, but allow others to know or see how much you are giving, your tithe is no longer a sacrifice and it is given to the church for all the wrong reasons. You are then no better off than a person who gives nothing; you are both disobedient.

Our usefulness to God is based on our devotion to him, our service to him, and our attitude. If you are a musician who plays in the worship band at church, but your motive is to impress girls and earn the praise of people, your service is of no value to God. If you are a good public speaker and offer to teach Sunday School so you can influence people to your own thinking instead of what the Bible teaches, your motives are against God, not for him. If you have sewing skills and agree to make new curtains for your church with a hidden desire for people to praise your work and attract new business, your service to the church is not for God, but for yourself. And, if you are wealthy and tell people how much money you give to the church, your money is worthless to God.

Consider your motives for serving the church. Are you doing so to win the appreciation of people or God? Only your humble and sacrificial service counts. Our discussion of giving is not complete. Next time, we will discuss the obligations of pastors and church elders to use your tithe properly.

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