Luke 21:1-4

“The Appraiser!”

1. **Intro:**
   1.1. Communion – (after 2nd 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 “**P**[icture-]**I**n-a-**P**[icture].”
         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.¹
      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.

¹ 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 living by what we get, but we make a life 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

2.10. Globalrich.com – Type in your annual income. [If it’s $50,000 or more, you’re in the top 1% of the richest people in the world] Go to our website: ccmurrieta.com {Community – Links & Events}

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. 1st word in vs.2 is [π penichros] it was the very general term for poor (living day by day).
2.13.2. 2nd word in vs.3, by Jesus, was [π 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? 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 “I 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 all our heart, with all our soul, with all our mind, and with all 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 motive 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