

“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 “**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.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

- 2.17.3. 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