

SERMON TEXT - MARK 12:41-44

41 And he sat down opposite the treasury and watched the people putting money into the offering box. Many rich people put in large sums.

42 And a poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which make a penny.

43 And he called his disciples to him and said to them, "Truly, I say to you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the offering box.

44 For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on."

THE HEART OF GIVING- CODY A. BROBST

Theme: We all wrestle with what is ours and what is God's. Stewardship is ultimately about the heart only God can see (V. 41).

What do generous hearts look like?

1. Diligently Involved- V. 42

The Widow showed up

Schedule as litmus test

Living Branch Takeaway: Church members come to worship & serve.

2. Financially Invested- V. 43

The Widow gave sacrificially

Bank Account as litmus test

Living Branch Takeaway: God weighs, not counts, our contributions.

3. Eternally Interested- V. 44

The Widow kept perspective

Character as litmus test

Living Branch Takeaway: Our entire livelihood is dependent on Him.

Those who have been given much in Jesus will grow to have generous hearts. Will we trust Him with the resources He has entrusted to us?

Other Passages

Proverbs 3:5-9: Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord, and turn away from evil. It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your bones. Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the first-fruits of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine.

1 Cor. 4:2-4: Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful. But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by any human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself. For I am not aware of anything against myself, but I am not thereby acquitted. It is the Lord who judges me.

2 Cor. 9:6-7: The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.