

People Watching with Jesus

Mark 12.41-44, 2 Corinthians 8.1-5, 9.6-8

Jesus sits down across from the temple treasury and engages in a practice familiar to many of us—people watching. It becomes a teaching moment for the disciples.

Two examples of New Testament giving:

A. A poor widow (Mark 12.41-44)

1. She gave everything.
2. She gave without reservation.
3. She gave in faith.
4. Jesus commends her act.
5. Her gift foreshadows Jesus' gift to us.

B. The poor and persecuted Macedonian Church (2 Corinthians 8-9)

Attitudes for Giving

They gave **WILLINGLY** . (8.3)

They gave **JOYFULLY** . (8.2, 4)

They gave **GENEROUSLY** . (8.2-3)

They gave **EXPECTANTLY** . (9.6-8)

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work...
2 Corinthians 9.6-8

It's not magic! How were they able to become givers like this?

THEY FIRST GAVE THEMSELVES TO THE LORD .

And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord...
2 Corinthians 8.5

It's more blessed to give than to receive. You'll not likely go wrong here if you keep remembering that our Master said, 'You're far happier giving than getting.'
Acts 20.35 (MSG)

The generous will themselves be blessed, for they share their food with the poor.
Proverbs 22.9

A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.
Proverbs 11.25

Good will come to those who are generous and lend freely, who conduct their affairs with justice.
Psalms 112.5



What is God saying to me?

What am I going to do about it?