

The Example of a Widow

I read a story about a man who called the church and asked if he could speak to the Head Hog at the Trough.

The secretary said, "Who?"

Then she gathered herself and said, "Sir, if you mean our pastor, you will have to treat him with a little more respect than that and ask for 'the reverend' or 'the pastor.' But certainly, you cannot refer to him as the Head Hog at the Trough."



The man replied, "I understand. I was calling because I have \$10,000 I was thinking about donating to the building fund."

The secretary said, "Hold on for just a moment. I think the big pig just walked in the door."

Perhaps we are all subject to changing our tune when substantial amounts of money are offered. That is why the passage in the Gospel of Mark about the widow who put two mites in the treasury has been an enduring image throughout the ages. People who give more are treated as if they are the pillars on which the church is erected.

(The two mites, by the way, together were worth a "quadrans," the smallest Roman coin.)

In that Bible story, Jesus is sitting in the temple, opposite the place where the offerings were put, observing the people make their donations as they come in. With Him are the leaders, the Sadducees. There is no paper money, so all of the offerings make a terrible noise as they roll down the long horn-shaped object and fall into the pool of coins.

Here comes this little old lady and she has two small coins worth nearly nothing and drops them in. They barely make a noise. Jesus calls His disciples over and says, "This poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others." He added that out of her poverty, she "put in all that she had, her whole livelihood."

To the Sadducees, this woman was a waste of time, but to Jesus, she was the stuff by which kingdoms are erected.

This story points out that the Kingdom of God is built by the wealthy as well as the widow. Jesus did not tell the leaders to stop collecting money. People are moved to give by the same motivation as the widow. And what was her motivation? She knew that giving was important to God.

(more)

Whether rich or poor, we must recognize that one of the fundamental tenets of the Christian faith is giving. First, giving of ourselves and then giving of our resources, which can include money, but also our time and the talents that God has entrusted to us.

And I'm pleased to say that, by and large, our associates in Life Care and Century Park have the same heart for giving as did that widow.

Give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you (Luke 6:38 ESV).

– Beecher Hunter