

## The Currency of Extraordinary Faith

October 28, 2012

LUKE 21:1-4

Vol. 2 Num. 43

### Core Competency:

**Giving Away My Money-** *I give away God's money to fulfill God's purposes.*

*Now as you excel in everything—faith, speech, knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love for us—excel also in this grace. (2 Corinthians 8:7)*

### Using This Study

#### ❶ EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? The words God uses to communicate really matter, so pay close attention to the details emphasized or repeated in the passage.

#### ❷ DISCOVER His Word

What does God MEAN? Answer the questions and then bring to your COMMUNITY GROUP to discover and discuss with others.

#### ❸ LIVE His Word

How does this truth FIT? God's word is lived in real life so engage with truth in your LIFEGROUP.

### Introduction

Luke 21:1-4 concludes a significant segment of the physician's gospel that begins in chapter 19. Just two days prior, a Sunday, Jesus made his triumphal entry into Jerusalem (19:28-40). The tension from his opposition (chief priests, scribes, and leaders of the people - 19:47) was at its peak. They desperately desired him dead, but the adoring crowds stood in their way (vv. 47-48). The following day, Monday, Jesus entered into and proceeded to cleanse the temple of the corrupt merchants and money changers.

The next day (chapter 20), Jesus was back at the temple teaching many about the kingdom of God. Furious over the potential consequences of Jesus' popularity, members of his opposition began challenging his authority to teach in a manner distinct from their interpretation of the Scriptures. "Tell us, by what authority are you doing these things. Who gave you this authority?" (v. 2). "Teacher. . . is it right for us to pay taxes to Caesar or not? (v.22). "At the resurrection, whose wife will she be..." (v. 33). Each question was answered decisively by Jesus; to such a degree that, "No one dared to ask him any more questions." (v. 40).

Having disarmed their attack, Jesus turns the tables and challenges them with a question of his own (vv. 41-44), one that if answered correctly would affirm the deity (and ultimate authority) of the true Messiah. After all this, Jesus then turns to his disciples and warns of the facade of his opposition. His words communicated that while these religious leaders may sound good and look important (especially before their wealthy followers), their religious deviations reveal their disingenuousness; so much so that they are even willing to take advantage of some of the weakest members of their society, widows (v. 47).

### This Week

What follows, our passage today, is the perfect object lesson for his disciples on the difference between a hearts that is fixated on an economy established by mankind verses the eternal economy of God.

## ① EXAMINE His Word

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What does God SAY? The words God uses to communicate really matter, so pay close attention to the details emphasized or repeated in the passage:

### Read Luke 21:1-4

#### HCSB

- 1 He looked up and saw the rich dropping their offerings into the temple treasury.
- 2 He also saw a poor widow dropping in two tiny coins.
- 3 "I tell you the truth," He said. "This poor widow has put in more than all of them.
- 4 For all these people have put in gifts out of their surplus, but she out of her poverty has put in all she had to live on."

#### NET Bible

- 1 Jesus looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the offering box.
- 2 He also saw a poor widow put in two small copper coins.
- 3 He said, "I tell you the truth, this poor widow has put in more than all of them.
- 4 For they all offered their gifts out of their wealth. But she, out of her poverty, put in everything she had to live on."

#### NIV

- 1 As he looked up, Jesus saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury.
- 2 He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins.
- 3 "I tell you the truth," he said, "this poor widow has put in more than all the others.
- 4 All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on."

#### NCV

- 1 As Jesus looked up, he saw some rich people putting their gifts into the Temple money box.
- 2 Then he saw a poor widow putting two small copper coins into the box.
- 3 He said, "I tell you the truth, this poor widow gave more than all those rich people.
- 4 They gave only what they did not need. This woman is very poor, but she gave all she had to live on."

## ② DISCOVER His Word

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What does God MEAN? Answer the following questions and then bring to your COMMUNITY GROUP to discover and discuss with other.

1. Try to imagine yourself in the temple court. What additional images or characteristics come to your mind in regards to the "rich" Jesus mentions in v. 1?
2. Same exercise as in question 1 only this time, profile what additional images or characteristics come to mind in regards to the "poor widow" in v. 2.
3. Do you think Jesus' mention of the widow was more likely a praise for her actions, a lament for her being victimized by the religious system of her day, or an equal measure of both? Explain.
4. How can it legitimately be said by Jesus that the widow "put in more than all the others"?

5. Why do you think God is less interested in how much we give than how much we keep?
  
6. So does this passage communicate that we should give up everything we own? Explain.
  
7. How has the week's lesson shaped your understanding of our Core Competency Giving Away My Money?

## **Sermon Notes:**

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## **③LIVE His Word**

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**How does this truth FIT? God's word is lived in real life so engage with truth in your LIFEGROUP.**

If the actions of the rich represents a "1" and the actions of the widow represents a "10" on a scale, where would you place yourself in terms of sacrificial giving (i.e. - how much you have left over after you have given your gift/s to God)?

# 30 CORE Competencies

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## 10 Core Beliefs

**Trinity** *2 Corinthians 13:14*

I believe the God of the Bible is the only true God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**Salvation by Grace** *Ephesians 2:8-9* I believe a person comes into a right relationship with God by His grace, through faith in Jesus Christ.

**Authority of the Bible** *2 Timothy 3:16-17*

I believe the Bible is the Word of God and has the right to command my belief and action.

**Personal God** *Psalms 121:1-2*

I believe God is involved in and cares about my daily life.

**Identity in Christ** *John 1:12*

I believe I am significant because of my position as a child of God.

**Church** *Ephesians 4:15-16*

I believe the church is God's primary way to accomplish His purposes on earth today.

**Humanity** *John 3:16*

I believe all people are loved by God and need Jesus Christ as their Savior.

**Compassion** *Psalms 82:3-4*

I believe God calls all Christians to show compassion to those in need.

**Eternity** *John 14:1-4*

I believe there is a heaven and a hell and that Jesus Christ is returning to judge the earth and to establish His eternal kingdom.

**Stewardship** *1 Timothy 6:17-19*

I believe that everything I am or own belongs to God.

**Spiritual Gifts** *Romans 12:4-6*

I know and use my spiritual gifts to accomplish God's purposes.

**Biblical Community** *Acts 2:44-47*

I live life with other Christians to accomplish God's purposes in the world.

**Giving Away My Time** *Colossians 3:17*

I give away my time to fulfill God's purposes.

**Giving Away My Money** *2 Corinthians 8:7*

I give away God's money to fulfill God's purposes.

**Giving Away My Faith** *Ephesians 6:19-20*

I give away my faith to fulfill God's purposes.

**Giving Away My Life** *Romans 12:1*

I give away my life to fulfill God's purposes.

## 10 Core Virtues

**Joy** *John 15:11*

I have inner contentment and purpose in spite of my circumstances.

**Peace** *Philippians 4:6-7*

I am free from anxiety because things are right between God, me, and others.

**Faithfulness** *Proverbs 3:3-4*

I demonstrate loyalty in my relationships with others in response to God's loyalty to me.

**Self-Control** *Titus 2:11-13*

I have the power, through Christ, to control myself.

**Humility** *Philippians 2:3, 4*

I choose to esteem others above myself.

**Love** *1 John 4:10-12*

I sacrificially and unconditionally love and forgive others.

**Patience** *Proverbs 14:29*

I endure patiently under the unavoidable pressures of life.

**Kindness/Goodness** *1 Thess. 5:15*

I choose to do the right things in my relationships with others.

**Gentleness** *Philippians 4:5*

I am thoughtful, considerate and calm in dealing with others.

**Hope** *Hebrews 6:19-20*

I can cope with the hardships of life and with death because of the hope I have in Jesus Christ

## 10 Core Practices

**Worship** *Psalms 95:1-7*

I worship God for who He is and what He has done for me.

**Prayer** *Psalms 66:16-20*

I pray to God to know Him, to lay my request before Him and to find direction for my daily life.

**Bible Study** *Hebrews 4:12*

I read the Bible to know God, the truth, and to find direction for my daily life.

**Single-mindedness** *Matthew 6:33* I focus on God and His priorities for my life.