

Mark 12:41 - Now Jesus sat opposite the treasury and saw how the people put money into the treasury. And many who were rich put in much. 42 Then one poor widow came and threw in two mites, which make a quadrans. 43 So He called His disciples to Himself and said to them, “Assuredly, I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all those who have given to the treasury; 44 for they all put in out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all that she had, her whole livelihood.”

- a. These are Jesus’ final words in the temple
- b. The scripture acknowledges the dollar amount of the gift was small
- c. No one seemed to notice it but the Lord
- d. The value of the gift was not related to the amount given
- e. It when we are, “called to Himself” that we see that
- f. Notice the episode that preceded this account:

vs 38 - Then He said to them in His teaching, “Beware of the scribes, who desire to go around in long robes, love greetings in the marketplaces, 39 the best seats in the synagogues, and the best places at feasts, 40 who devour widows’ houses, and for a pretense make long prayers.

- g. This poor widow was giving to the support of the very same people that devoured the houses of folks like her – and do it hypocritically.

Or did she ? Did she give as unto the Lord? Jesus seemed to be hinting that the giving was a reflection of her heart

Mark 14:3-9 - 3 And being in Bethany at the house of Simon the leper, as He sat at the table, a woman came having an alabaster flask of very costly oil of spikenard. Then she broke the flask and poured it on His head. 4 But there were some who were indignant among themselves, and said, “Why was this fragrant oil wasted? 5 For it might have been sold for more than three hundred denarii and given to the poor.” And they criticized her sharply. 6 But Jesus said, “Let her alone. Why do you trouble her? She has done a good work for Me. 7 For you have the poor with you always, and whenever you wish you may do them good; but Me you do not have always. 8 She has done what she could. She has come beforehand to anoint My body for burial. 9 Assuredly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be told as a memorial to her.”

- a. This lady’s gift was “very costly”
- b. The size of the gift drew criticism – Small gifts are ignored; big gifts are criticized
- c. Jesus asked a very poignant question: “Why do you trouble her?” – ie., what’s in your heart?
- d. Yet, Jesus indicates that the value of her gift was also not related to it’s dollar value
- e. Also notice what followed this account:

vs 10 - Then Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve, went to the chief priests to betray Him to them. 11 And when they heard it, they were glad, and promised to give him money. So he sought how he might conveniently betray Him.

f. The religious people criticized this lady for how she used her money; and yet see how they used their money

Two back-to-back episodes that are, 'bookended' by contrasting accounts - all reflecting the hearts of the characters involved.

The accounts are not so much dealing with financial conditions, as they are with heart conditions.

Mt 6:21 - For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also