

# FRIDAY, AUGUST 13TH

DAILY READING ASSIGNMENT: **Mark 11-13**

**SCRIPTURE** Mark 12:41-44

## OBSERVATION

Here we have an everyday scene that can easily be overlooked. At the temple treasury people are coming and going, tossing their offerings in one of the thirteen receptacles set up for this purpose. Giving was public and simple – enter and give what you can.

Across from this area sat Jesus, watching the crowd [v.41]. He takes notice of something and calls his disciples over to tell them about it.

What was it that was so noteworthy? Did a rich guy just toss in an absurd amount of cash that would feed and clothe the poor for a year? Nope – just a poor widow who dropped in two coins, the total value of which was literally a fraction of a penny. I'm going to take an educated guess that Jesus was probably the only one who noticed this act.

He then tells the disciples that she gave more than everyone else. Huh? Did Jesus see something no one else did? Yes. He saw her heart.

## APPLICATION

You may be saying to yourself that this poor widow was foolish for giving so much [percentage-wise] when she had so little. That may sound logical, except that Jesus commends her for it. Are you going to argue with him? I'm not. So we must discover why.

She obviously felt compelled to give what she did. And that is a matter of the heart. It cost her dearly to drop in those coins, but by whose standards? It is in our heart where our desires, principles, attitudes, and actions are cultivated.

If or when you give what is your attitude? Maybe you think the size of your contribution is too little to matter. Jesus begs to differ. He will bless you for the gift that results from gratitude and selflessness.

Shortly after Hurricane Katrina devastated New Orleans I heard an extremely successful comedienne/actress/talk-show hostess state during an interview that it is not her responsibility to give to the poor and destitute – that it is the role of our government.

Just one question, though: how's that working out for us?

## PRAYER

God, forgive me for the times I thought I had nothing to give. Forgive me for the times I gave grudgingly. Help me become a cheerful giver. I know you will take care of my needs. Help me trust in that truth today and notice ways that I can contribute. *Amen.*

*S.O.A.P. Entry Author: Kelly Ellis*