



THE INFORMER

Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

www.nacoc.us

June 9, 2020

How Does the Sacrifice of the Widow's Mite Apply Today?

By Kevin Cauley



How does Mark 12:41-44 apply today? Does Matthew 19:21 apply to this example? If so, how?

Mark 12:41-44 is the story of the widow who cast in her two mites to the temple treasury. Jesus said of her, *"Assuredly, I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all those who have given to the treasury; for they all put in out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all that she had, her whole livelihood."* Jesus was teaching the disciples about giving. His point was that the quality of giving is more important than the quantity. The rich, in this context, were putting a lot of money into the temple treasury. We know that they made a big deal out of this by sounding trumpets when they gave (Matthew 6:2). They thought that by their giving so much money to the treasury, they would be saved. We know that the Pharisees believed that they could be excused from taking care of their elderly parents if they gave money to the temple treasury (Matthew 15:5). Jesus is calling attention to the fact that it is really easy for the rich to give large amounts of money to the treasury. In other words, for them, it isn't much of a sacrifice, because they are giving from their abundance. Anyone can do that. It was a real sacrifice for the widow to give her two mites because they were her entire living. She was really trusting in God to provide for her. The rich were trusting in themselves and their own righteousness. So, it wasn't the amount of money that interested Jesus, it was the attitude of heart that he was concerned about. We've got to give to God in a way that is going to demonstrate that we trust in God to provide the things that we need. If we will do that, then God will see how we are giving, and He will take care of us.

The second part of the question has to do with Matthew 19:16-22 which is the story of the rich young ruler. While verse 19 doesn't relate directly to the story of the widow and her two mites, the principle is the same. The rich young ruler had a problem with his riches. They dominated his life. He was looking for a way to justify his own love of riches. He sought to use religion to do that. So, he came to Jesus and asked about what he needed to do to enter eternal life. Jesus told him to keep the commandments, which he said he had done. So Jesus gave him the real challenge of his life, and he told him to sell all that he had, give it to the poor, and follow Jesus to have treasure in heaven. However, he didn't want to do this, and so he goes away sorrowful. The action reveals to us his real motivation. He wasn't looking to go to heaven, per se, but to use religion to justify his love of money. Like the rich who were casting into the temple treasury of abundance, this kind of life isn't a sacrifice. So, Jesus put a real opportunity for sacrifice in front of him. It's not what he really wanted.

The lesson from both of these stories is that we must be the kind of people who offer real sacrifices to God. Paul tells us in Romans 12:1-2, *"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."* If we are going to be the kind of people that God wants us to be, then our lives must be a sacrifice for God on a daily basis. Sometimes we sing the song, "I am mine, no more." This is the idea. Everything that we are and have belongs to God, and we are just stewards of those things. We can choose to use those things for our own pleasures, or we can use them to the glory of God. To do the latter requires real sacrifice.

Have You Changed?

Just a couple of months ago we were...
...praying shoulder to shoulder with each other.
...laughing and joking with each other face-to-face.
...hugging and shaking hands.
...hearing everyone's voices in song.
...worshipping in one place.
...rushing from place to place with overloaded schedules.
...struggling to find time for priorities.

Our entire world has changed. But have we?

Have we used this time...

...to grow closer with the Lord?
...to pray more?
...to develop good Bible study habits?
...to reach out to others?
...to spend quality time with our family?
...to remove bad/sinful habits?
...to serve those in need?
...to self-discipline?
...to rejuvenate ourselves?
...to treasure the worship assembly?

By the time we meet again for collective worship, two months will have passed. The past few weeks have been challenging to say the least. They have also provided an opportunity to come out of this better - a chance to slow down, and to, above all, the chance to tap into God's power. We have been provided every opportunity to become better. But have we?

I believe I have and I believe you have, too, but I doubt any of us has reached his/her full potential. Therefore, the change cannot stop here. There is more growing to do (Ephesians 4:15; Hebrews 6:1). There is more refining needed (1 Timothy 4:6-8). There are more souls to reach (Matthew 28:18-19). There are more of our church family in need (Galatians 6:10). We can grow even closer with God (James 4:8).

Hopefully, these weeks of isolation have sparked tremendous spiritual growth. If not, however, it is not too late.

--Copied



“Ten” Bible Questions

1. Which “enemy of the Jews” had his TEN sons called by name and killed (Esther 9:10)? _____
2. Wisdom provides strength more than TEN what (Ecclesiastes 7:19)? _____
3. What changed by TEN degrees as a sign to Hezekiah (2 Kings 20:8-11)? _____
4. What TEN mostly-ungrateful men did Jesus heal on His way to Jerusalem (Luke 17:11-19) _____
5. Nebuchadnezzar found Daniel and his friends TEN times wiser than who (Daniel 1:20) _____
6. What cities would God have spared for TEN righteous souls (Genesis 18:32)? _____
7. What two men died at one hundred and TEN years of age (Genesis 50:22; Judges 2:8)? _____
8. Besides the silver, what TEN things did Naaman take to meet Elisha (2 Kings 5:5) _____
9. What TEN things was David to take up to the battle (1 Samuel 17:17-18)? _____
10. What TEN things were made for the tabernacle from blue, purple and scarlet thread (Exodus 36:8)? _____

PRAYER LIST



Helen DePriest had cataract surgery Monday, in Oxford.

Carlie Hedges, niece of *Sue Marques* has pneumonia, but thankfully did not have Covid.

Eleta Grimmett, is improving!

Billie Joe Garner, still having a difficult time with his health.

Bill Lyon, having good and bad days, Please remember *Bill* and *Grace* in your prayers.

Ron Griggs continues to recover at home. He returns to his doctor Tuesday.

Expectant Mothers:

Kelsey Petrowski: boy, Aug.

Erica Crotts: boy, Oct.



Continue to Remember:

Shane Crotts, Arelus Dye, Mable Erwin, Prebble Foster, Don Golden, Ron Griggs, Eleta Grimmett, Phillip Haynes, Andrea Hill, Janie Huggins, Ronnie Miller, Jerry Robbins, Shannon Sciara, Levi Smith, Josie Tidwell, Charles Ulmer, Angela Victory, Nicki Weaver, Donnie Wilson

Shut-Ins:

Bill & Helen DePriest, Linda Griggs, Billy Joe Garner, Nancy Petrowski,

Nursing Home/Assisted Living:

Joe Downs, Lucille Gibson, Price Senter, J.D. Stroud

Military List:

Derek Bradley, Tevin Bradley, Luke Goff, Chase Seals

2020 GRADUATE RECOGNITION



We will recognize our 2020 graduates Sun. June 21st, at our morning service. Our two high school seniors, *David Clayton* and *Patience Golden* will each have a table set up in the foyer to display their accomplishments and memories. Please take a moment to congratulate them and notice their many accomplishments. This has been a difficult year for all high school seniors who have had so many things canceled and changed, so let us be sure to show them how much we love and appreciate them.

I've Learned...

When we show partiality we separate, make distinction, discriminate, and prefer one thing or person over another.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



- June 10.David Clayton
- June 11.Christy Wall
- June 12.Collett Cross
- June 12.Kenesha Sweezer
- June 16.Betty Boren
- June 16.Lucille Gibson
- June 18.Madison Griggs

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- June 12.Rex & Jennie Bell
- June 12.Martin & Erica Crotts
- June 14.Greg & Lynn Harrison
- June 16.Richard & Kathy Jennings
- June 17.Kevin & Stephanie Simmons
- June 20.Dean & Viva Dillard



THANK YOU NOTE

Thank you all for the cards, calls, texts, visits and food during my recovery from surgery. It's hard sometimes to ask for help and in this case you all saw the need and just took care of it.

Love you all, Richard Adams

FROM THE ELDERS

The elders appreciate your comments about our preacher candidates. Please let them know your opinion of each. Thanks to all who already have.

The Elders

GUEST SPEAKER SUNDAY

We will have *Tyler Boyd* as our guest speaker Sunday, June 14th. *Tyler* is interested in our minister's position. We are happy to have *Tyler*, *Heather*, *Elijah*, and *Rivers* with us again.

AREA EVENTS

- There will be a Gospel Meeting at the Verona Church of Christ June 12th-14th with *Jameson Steward* of Smithville, MS as their guest speaker. Times: Fri. & Sat. nights at 6:00pm and Sun. 9:00, 10:00 & 12:30. Services will be in person and live streamed.

Visit our website @ <http://www.nacoc.us>

Email: nacoc15s@gmail.com

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Volume 23

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday School.....9:30
 Morning Worship.....10:30
 Evening Worship.....6:00
 Wednesday Bible Study....6:30

MINISTER

Shaler Grigsby....Youth/ Assoc.
256-263-9137
 Office 534-4649

ELDERS

Greg Clayton.....252-9762
 Tim Dye.....316-2527
 Richard Jennings316-1305
 Troy Robertson316-3163
 Phil Young.....316-2059

DEACONS

Kurt Clayton.....316-6420
 Roger Clayton 538-8195
 Shane Crotts.....266-0195
 Jason Jennings..... 801-3260
 Mark Jennings...731-609-3309
 Randy Wall 316-9255

TO SERVE

Scripture.....Clay Jennings
 A.M. Prayer.....Jim Gann
 Closing.....Caleb Jennings
 P.M. Prayer.....
 Closing.....
 Wed.....
 Wed.....
 Lock.....Mark Jennings
 UsherMark Jennings
 SecurityTBA

OUR RECORD

Sunday School.....
 Sunday A.M.....
 Sunday P.M.....
 Wednesday.....
 Contribution.....
 Budget.....\$4,095.92



PANTRY ITEMS

THE INFORMER (USPS 581-500)

Church of Christ
 511 Hwy. 15 South, P.O. Box 148
 New Albany, Mississippi 38652
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 148, New Albany, MS 38652

Listen!

“The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but he who heeds counsel is wise” (Proverbs 12:15).

My parents had a funny little plaque hanging on a wall in our house. It pictured a grumpy-looking face with this inscription: “My mind is made up. Don’t confuse me with facts!”

Doesn’t everyone do what they have made up their mind is right? If they didn’t think it was right, they wouldn’t do it! But Solomon said that even a fool’s way is right in his own eyes. That doesn’t mean we’re always wrong, but we’re not always right either. If we’re wise, we’ll pay heed to counsel.

In another proverb Solomon wrote, *“Plans are established by counsel; by wise counsel wage war”* (20:18). No king, president, or general worth his salt engages in a war without seeking sound advice from wise counselors. The same point is clarified in 24:6 – *“For by wise counsel you will wage your own war, and in a multitude of counselors there is safety.”*

We see the wisdom of seeking counsel in a military context; can we not see it as well in day-to-day life as a soldier of Christ? Of course our most trusted counsel is from the Lord. He is our *“wonderful counselor”* (Isaiah 9:6), and His inspired word is the *“counsel of God”* (Acts 20:27).

But Solomon’s point was not limited to counsel from God and His word. Brothers and sisters who know the Lord, know and respect His word, and have experienced the ups and downs of life can provide us with valuable advice if we will only ask and then listen.

No matter how intelligent you are, you don’t know it all! Seek wise counsel. **Ask for it. And listen!**
 ~ Joe Slater