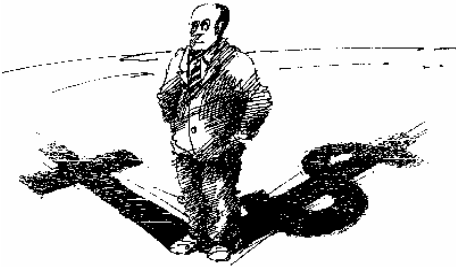


## SERMON SUMMARY

<b>Date:</b> October 7, 2007	11:00 am Worship Service
<b>Preacher:</b> Rev. Donald Lawrence	<b>Reference:</b> St. Mark 12:41-44
<b>Topic:</b> Grasping Our Lord's Desire... For The Use of Money and The Church	



Who is the model giver? Does size matter, or is it about the sacrifice involved? Can you leave yourself with nothing after giving? In this section of St. Mark's Gospel, Jesus was answering the attacks of those whose religion lacked genuine vitality, as well as challenging their wayward attitudes about piety. In our focus passage we see Jesus:

- eyeing the contribution of all
- evaluating the contribution of all
- elevating the value of the window's contribution

In verses 41-42, we see that for Jesus, giving money in the Temple was no Private Affair. 13 Collection Boxes were set out in the temple for various causes. Jesus could see the gifts that were being placed in the boxes. Life is a theatre before God and we need to remember that God is watching us. The amount we give to the Church tells of our Consciousness of God.

For Jesus the Proportion of the gifts mattered. In verse.43 we see that Jesus:

- ✦ commented on the amounts
- ✦ compared the amounts

Life demands thanks and tithes to God. God is waiting on us and the amount we give to the Church tells of our Commitment to God.

In verse 44, Jesus noticed that the woman placed her all before God. The woman was poor and yet she left herself with nothing. Life demands trust in God, who is always working for us. The amount we give to the Church tells of our Confidence in God.

It is not the ease but the effort involved in giving that matters, for amount alone will not do, attitude matters too. Let us give so that our Gratitude to God, as well as our Reliance on Him, is evident.