

<sup>1</sup> As Jesus looked up, he saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury. <sup>2</sup> He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. <sup>3</sup> “Truly I tell you,” he said, “this poor widow has put in more than all the others. <sup>4</sup> All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on.” Luke 21:1-4 NIV

One of the constant themes in the Bible in the relationship of God to humankind is “attitude”. It really seems to have affected the outcome of so many. It was Cain’s attitude to God’s acceptance of Abel’s offering that caused him to kill his brother. Samson’s attitude of self confidence in his strength, after Delilah did her deed, that caused him to be subdued by the Philistines. David’s attitude of repentance and humility (after his shameless episode with Bathsheba and her husband Uriah) helped keep the close relationship he had with God. The list could go on and on how “attitude” affected both negative and positive outcomes in scripture.

It must have been impressive to see the rich putting in their offering in the temple treasury. Well dressed, and one can imagine them having a decent sack of money to put in. Perhaps too there were bystanders (maybe even Jesus’ disciples at the time of this teaching) who would “ooh” and “ah” at the sight of the rich and their offerings).

But what Jesus really takes note of is the offering of the widow. To the reader and the disciples this would have been strange. The widow was on the lowest rung of society and many times in desperate poverty. Once her spouse passed away the only way her dire situation could be changed was if she remarried (if she was young) or had children to take care of her (if she was old).

So why would Jesus make such a big deal about her two small coins? One word: “attitude”. By giving what she had she was truly giving deep from her heart to God. Her attitude towards God far outweighed anything else, even what little she had to live on. It is obvious that for those rich givers, no such attitude was present.

In your relationship to God, how’s your attitude? When I’m either asked to do something, or have to do something that I’d rather not do, I do have a bad attitude. However, by the grace of God and through the ministry of the Holy Spirit when I recognize and confess that bad attitude, there is a change in me, and most times the task at hand becomes a real blessing for me.

What bad attitudes are you stuck in today? While they might “feel good” in terms of letting them out, most times they are destructive to us and others. When such “bad attitudes” confess them to God and ask God to change them to good. God will bless them.

Look how important a lowly widow became in comparison to those considered important to the world!

Pr. John Van Haneghan