

Wednesday, 28th May 2020



THE CANDLESTICK

This poor widow hath cast in more than they all (Lk. 21:3)

In his 'day job', the Gospel writer Luke was a doctor. This often comes across with his use of proper medical terms to describe some of the conditions of the people Jesus healed.

Like every good doctor, he was a 'people person'. He had a genuine interest in them. One of the examples of this is in how we see him relating to widows. Now, widows were in the very poor category of society for they lived a basic and meagre existence. The first widow he mentioned was Anna in the temple (Lk. 2:37), then the widow in Sarepta (Zarephath, 4:26), and the widow of Nain (7:11). He also included the parable featuring the widow 'squaring up' to the judge in Lk. 18:3. He mentioned another widow when he berated the scribes for, - among other misdeeds, - 'devouring widows' houses' (Lk. 20:47).

One of his most beautiful 'widow stories' concerns this poor woman as she enters the temple, - a story also shared in Mark 12:41-44. Luke records, **Lk. 21:1** And he *[Jesus]* looked up, and saw the rich men casting their gifts into the treasury. **2** And he saw also a certain poor widow casting in thither two mites. **3** And he said, Of a truth I say unto you, that this poor widow hath cast in more than they all: **4** For all these have of their abundance cast in unto the offerings of God: but she of her penury *[poverty]* hath cast in all the living that she had.

To look at her, you would have known she hadn't much, - she barely had enough to 'make ends meet'. She was in what was known as "The Court of the Women" in the temple... and that was as far as she was allowed to go. There were men there, of course, - temple officials, - ... and they watched everything that was going on, and they would have saw how little the widow *dropped* into the offering ... The two small coins hardly made a sound! ... Not like how they would have done it, - they would have made a whole *noise* out of how much they were giving ... but not this widow woman for she simply, quietly, and without a fuss deposited the two inconsequential mites she had into the offering box. ... Such was her poverty.

However, her offering also displayed her sincerity for as Jesus said, this poor widow hath cast in more than they all. ... Jesus wasn't looking at her purse, but instead, he saw inside her heart for when she came into the temple, she came in with her life's savings, - all she had, - and yet, - in her own quiet way, she was showing to the Lord, "Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord, to Thee" ... and she left

with nothing. Two mites weren't an awful lot, but it was more than nothing ... and when she gave all she had to the Lord, she was satisfied.

This widow had probably never met Jesus. She might have heard about Him, or maybe have seen Him at a distance but she had never met Him 'up close'. There is no account of her shaking hands or having a conversation with Him ... how surprised, then, she would be if she knew God had included her in His Word! She is unnamed, but she didn't go unnoticed. She illustrates the type of person who loves the Lord Jesus unselfishly ... not for what she can gain but for what she can give.

It is ironic that one of the purposes for having these offerings in the temple was to meet the needs of the *widows* and the orphans. In other words, this widow was contributing towards others in similar circumstances to her own. She knew what it was like, and this was her true service in the house of Lord!

And it is no wonder Jesus drew the attention of His disciples to her. To that widow, her two mites were as precious as two diamonds, but Jesus saw beyond what she had in her hand, as He looked into her heart.

This isn't an appeal for church funds, but instead, what you give to the Lord, - whatever it is, be it your time, your two or more mites, your wisdom ... whatever it is, - when you genuinely give it to the Lord, He will do far more with your 'two mites' than the 'millions' out of a millionaire's bank account who gives Him no thought, for ...

Little is much when God is in it! Labour not for wealth or fame.

There's a crown - and you can win it, If you go in Jesus' Name.

And it is also worth mentioning that when this widow gave her two mites, she didn't have enough left to buy a loaf of bread. Now, how could she give like that? There is only one explanation, - she was giving because she was depending upon God. ... She was trusting in the promise of His Word, for she knew the Law of Moses reached into her circumstances, **Dt. 14:29** the stranger, and the fatherless, and the widow, which are within thy gates, shall come, and shall eat and be satisfied.

She's quite an example, isn't she?! Jesus thought so too! ... Yes, God is good, and above and beyond everything else He sacrificed His Son so that I am privileged, - and our church fellowship also, - to those riches in glory by Christ Jesus (Phil. 4:19). He is our Sacrifice for He was freely offered on Calvary for us, and nothing we can ever give compares with what He has given to us ...

Life! Life! Eternal life! Jesus alone is the Giver!
Life! Life! Abundant life! *Glory to Jesus for ever!*