

The Gift of Giving
II Corinthians 8:1-9

Review:

1. Christians should not give to the Lord's work out of either compulsion or guilt.
2. The Macedonian Christians gave freely and joyfully even though they had little to spare.
3. In this, they were following the example of Jesus, Who became poor so that we might become rich.
4. Ultimately, it is God Who should get all the credit for our gifts, because He gives us the gift of giving, the grace to give generously and selflessly.

Go Further: Read Mark 12:38-13:2

1. In 12:38-39, Jesus talks about the scribes, those who were considered experts in the Law of Moses. What does He say they enjoy? Why do you think people gave those things to them?
2. What do the scribes' desires say about their priorities?
3. Why does Jesus condemn the scribes in verse 40? What do their actions say about how deeply they understood the Law of God?
4. In 12:41, Jesus was watching people put money in the Temple treasury. These 13 collection boxes were placed in the court of the women, so that everyone could have access to them. What did He notice many of the rich people doing?
5. What did Jesus see a widow putting into the treasury? These coins were together worth 1/64th of a denarius, a day's wages for a laborer. With the minimum wage at \$7.25, these two coins would be worth a total of 91 cents today.
6. What did Jesus say about the amount the widow contributed?
7. In 13:1-2, how did Jesus respond to His disciples' admiration of the Temple buildings? What conclusion can you draw from His prediction about the kinds of causes we should support?

Apply:

1. Compare the negative example of the scribes with the positive example of the widow. What is Jesus teaching us about the focus and purpose of our lives? What can we do to emulate the widow instead of the scribes?
2. Compare the way that the rich people gave with the way the widow gave. What does this tell us about the extent to which we should give?