

***MARK 12:41-44, Now Jesus sat opposite the treasury and saw how the people put money into the treasury. And many who were rich put in much. Then one poor widow came and threw in two mites, which make a quadrans. So He called His disciples to Himself and said to them, "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."***

Many believers have never stepped into the place of blessing and favor of the Lord because they are convinced their offering to the Lord is insufficient. They may have been rejected or mocked because their offering by way of time, talent or treasure did not measure up to whatever standard has been set. It seems that many believers and particularly the leaders in the body of Christ have confused the world's definition of excellence with the Lord's. The Lord does indeed call us to do everything well, however, His definition of that term has far more to do with the heart and motive behind what we do rather than how impressive to the flesh it may be. How the Lord responds to the things we do and offer to Him is not based on how it compares to someone else but rather on how much of ourselves is being laid upon the altar for Him to use as he sees fit.

The lesson of the widow's mite is a great picture of the kind of service and sacrifice that moves His heart. She gave ALL she had while the others gave out of their surplus. Her offering was one that would create hardship in the natural while what the others gave did not move them from their place of comfort at all. To the carnal mind, her "puny" offering of two copper coins given in quiet humility and genuine love could not possibly measure up the impressive amount of silver coins the rich came to give. Nevertheless, the Lord saw things far differently. He declared that from Heaven's perspective this woman had out given them all.

If we are to be all we are called to be we must embrace anointing and excellence of spirit over talent. We must wage war against reliance and pride in how well we do a thing or the amount we give. We must celebrate and promote those who may not be as talented or wealthy, yet are doing the very best they can and giving everything they have to the Lord in brokenness and humility with clean hands and a pure heart. It is this kind of life the Lord will honor. That is the kind of life I want to live. How about you?

Charles Cooper