

# THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

JESUS CHRIST THE SON OF MAN

## LUKE CHAPTER 20:45-21:4

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

### THE WORTH OF WORSHIP

*THE HUMANITY AND DIVINITY OF JESUS CHRIST,  
THE SON OF GOD, SON OF MAN, SAVIOR OF ALL MANKIND*

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

**Tithing, Worship, Giving, Priorities, Discipleship**

#### Luke 20:45-21:4

**Then, in the hearing of all the people, He said to His disciples, :46 “Beware of the scribes, who desire to go around in long robes, love greetings in the marketplaces, the best seats in the synagogues, and the best places at feasts, :47 who devour widows’ houses, and for a pretense make long prayers. These will receive the greater condemnation.” 21:1-4 And He looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the treasury, :2 and He saw also a certain poor widow putting in two mites. :3 So He said, “Truly I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all; :4 for all these out of their abundance have put in offerings for God, but she out of her poverty put in all the livelihood that she had.”**

**I have always found it interesting** that no matter what group of religious people you’re talking with – from a Christian denomination to some cult-member, there’s one thing they all have in common, **financial support!**

**Even *Al-Qaeda* has an Extensive Giving Program.**

**BUT TO WHAT END ARE YOU INVESTING?**

### OUR DEGREE OF WORSHIP

**IT IS IN DIRECT CORRELATION TO OUR ESTIMATION OF THE LORD.**

**And So I Have a Question;**

When It Comes to Expressing Your Love for the Lord in Giving;  
How would the church be doing if everyone tithed like you tithed?

**Pastor Jack,**

Isn't tithing an Old Testament thing? Yes it is. The word means a "tenth". And in the Old Testament, a tenth of your income was to go to the work of God in many ways.

**Today, in the New Testament age in which we live in,**  
we're no longer to give a tithe, we're to give all, everything, the farm, the whole enchilada!!! // me, myself and I and everything that is mine – belongs to Him!

**It All Belongs to Him - Psalm 24:1**

The earth *is* the LORD'S, and all its **fullness**, The world and those who dwell therein.

**In These Verses Before Us,** Jesus is Teaching the Kingdom's Worth, not by Parable, not by Type or Illustration, – But by Example

*Verse 45-47*

**Then, in the hearing of all the people, (this is Jesus Christ "in preview" of the coming day of judgement) He said to His disciples, (this is intentionally obvious) :46**  
**"Beware of the scribes, who desire to go around in long robes, love greetings in the marketplaces, the best seats in the synagogues, and the best places at feasts, :47 who devour widows' houses, and for a pretense make long prayers. These will receive the greater condemnation."**

**"Then, in the hearing of all the people"**  
**(the gloves come off)**

**Background Note:**

*The scribe, the Pharisee, the religious leaders of Jesus' day were held in such high esteem that William Barclay notes that "should your father and your rabbi fall into a hole, you're to rescue your rabbi first. Should your father and rabbi be hungry or thirsty you're to satisfy your rabbi first. And should your father and rabbi be taken captive, you're to redeem your rabbi first."*

Nothing reveals our true love and loyalty more than our giving to God.  
The Pharisees knew that then, so they put on the show.

## **THE WORTH OF WORSHIP**

*WHAT MAKES YOU A TRUE BELIEVER!*

**1.) Worship is an individual act**

**v.1-2**

:1 And He **looked** up and **saw the rich** putting their **gifts** into the treasury, :2 and He **saw** also a **certain poor widow** putting in **two mites**.

## Jesus is now in the area of the temple that was called **THE COURT OF THE WOMAN.**

Near this area was The Treasury...

there were 13 chests or boxes at the Treasury. Each box had 2 trumpet shaped funnels that allowed the offerings to go down into the chests. These funnels looked like trumpets, narrow at one end and wide at the other. The wide end faced out toward the worshippers so as to allow you to receive your money as it went down into the chest.

Just like **“THE Toll road”** Offering  
You throw your cash into the wide end and the light turns green.

### **Exodus 23:15c**

“...No one is to appear before me empty-handed.”

Even today, if you're invited to appear before a King or Queen  
You're to bring a gift of unique consequence and of great value.

## **WORSHIP IS AN INDIVIDUAL ACT**

### **1a.) It cannot be compared to anything else v.1**

And He **looked** up and **saw the rich** putting their **gifts** into the treasury...

**Notice that Jesus was in,**  
and near and around the Temple there in Jerusalem. Why was He there and what was He doing...

### **Mark's Account of This Event**

#### **Mark 12:41**

Now Jesus sat opposite the treasury (that's in the Temple area) and **saw how the people put money into the treasury**. And many who were rich put in much.

**At This time of Passover – a Great Crowd was There...**

**Worship is a Personal Thing // Don't Get Me Wrong...**

Corporate worship is commanded in scripture for sure.

But true worship demands something more than a crowd, something more than an organized service – which the Lord loves. But it is only acceptable to Him when each of the individual worshippers are worshipping....

## Jesus Put It This Way...

**John 4:24**

**God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”**

### **There is a value that you assign to worship**

**Matthew 6:24**

“No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

**Mark 12:41**

...and He **saw how** the people put money into the treasury.

**Matthew 6:2-8**

Therefore, when you do a charitable deed, **do not sound a trumpet** before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory from men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. :3 But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, :4 that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly. :5 “And when you pray, you shall **not be like the hypocrites**. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. :6 But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who *is* in the secret *place*; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly. :7 And when you pray, **do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do**. For they think that they will be heard for their many words. :8 “Therefore **do not be like them**. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him.

**The Lord is always observant** of what’s going on in the house of God and in worship. He is very aware and involved in all things of worship.

### **Worship is the believers “opportunity & avenue”**

to tell the Lord what we think and feel about Him. – it’s our expression to Him.

# WORSHIP IS AN INDIVIDUAL ACT

**1b.) It doesn't depend upon who I am in life**

**v.2**

...and He saw also a certain poor widow

**He saw also**

**TO HER, THE LORD MUST HAVE BEEN EVERYTHING –  
SHE CAME POOR....**

**“But I Can't Afford to Tithe”**

one of the most common and fatal mistakes that a Christian makes is thinking that they are too poor to tithe. Giving back to the Lord is not for His benefit, it's for yours.

**What does giving back to the Lord accomplish?**

**IT EXPOSES THE REALITY OF MY FAITH IN GOD**  
*(Do I trust Him to provide for me)*

**IT CAUSES ME TO GET INTO MINISTRY**  
*(Now I have skin in this game)*

**IT ALLOWS ME TO SEE GOD WORK IN MY LIFE PERSONALLY**  
*(I will experience God in every area of my life)*

**IT INCREASES MY FAITH IN GOD**  
*(I will look to Him to watch Him prove for me)*

**IT ESTABLISHES A GODLY DISCIPLINE IN MY LIFE**  
*(I will put the Lord first in all that I do)*

**IT KEEPS THINGS PRIORITIZED IN MY LIFE**  
*(Should I get this or do that – does it honor God?)*

**2 Chronicles 16:9**

For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of *those* whose heart *is* loyal to Him.

# WORSHIP IS AN INDIVIDUAL ACT

## 1c.) It is a personal encounter with God

...and He saw also a certain poor widow - **putting in two mites.**

What does “**He**” mean to you – personally?

**TO HER, THE LORD MUST HAVE BEEN PERSONAL -**

### 2 Corinthians 9:7-8

So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. :8 And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work.

## Worship is a Discipline

**Can I invoke my pastoral authority for a moment?**

I, like Jesus, watch what you're giving to Him in worship. Some of you worship Him in a reverent silence, some of you sing aloud. Some with hands lifted... ..others with eyes closed... then there's some who are looking around, talking, texting, picking your nose or your neighbors nose....

What are doing and why are you here?

“Well maybe I didn't like any of these worship songs today Pastor Jack”

## “THE WORTH OF WORSHIP”

*WHAT MAKES YOU A TRUE BELIEVER!*

2.) **Worship is an extravagant offering**

**v.3**

2a.) **It is transcendent of our human status**

**v.3**

So He said, “Truly I say to you that **this poor widow** has put in **more than all;**

## How Does Jesus Know That?

It's easy – because **money talks** and it tells everything...

**TO HER, THE LORD WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO MATTERED**

## how many of you are not rich?

Then you could qualify to be an extravagant worshipper of the Lord.

**I HAVE SO LITTLE – “PUT IT IN” SAYS JESUS**

### Luke 6:38

Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.”

### Attention Christian

The global, economic down-turn has affected or will affect everyone. What was thought secure, is now gone. What you've worked for, has disappeared.

Imagine with me for a moment – what if we would have invested in spiritual things, eternal things rather than the stock market or the dollar? This crash would not have affected us one bit. Our investments would have been “perfect”. They would have been “safe”. They would still be “producing”.

**What if you could have tithed  
what you've lost in your savings account or your 401K?**

### Give Your “Widows” Mite

(What you have left to live on)

Are You Nuts Jack

why should I give to God what little I have left?

(and therein is your problem – you can't see past the graveyard)

## WORSHIP IS AN EXTRAVAGANT OFFERING

**2b.) It is not limited to what we possess**

**v.3**

From 1980 to 1989 Americans lost \$180 billion dollars a year in gambling debts. 15 times more than the tithes and offerings given to American churches per year.

*(Physiology Today Magazine 1986)*

# WORSHIP IS AN EXTRAVAGANT OFFERING

## 2b.) It is not limited to what we possess

### Malachi 3:8-10

“Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me. “But you ask, ‘How do we rob you?’ “In tithes and offerings. :9 You are under a curse — this whole nation — because you are robbing me. (*taxes rob from God*) :10 Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the LORD Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.

No man can outgive God. The Lord will never allow Himself to become indebted to our level of giving.

### A Daffy Duck Warning

#### 1 Timothy 6:9

But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and *into* many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition.

## 2c.) It is of the utmost value to God

v.3

So He said, “Truly I say to you that **this poor widow** has put in **more than all**;

This “**Truly**” here is a beautiful acknowledgement by Jesus

This Thrilled the Heart of God - And so Jesus Makes Mention of its Value.

**two mites**. Equivalent to 1/8<sup>th</sup> of a U.S. Penny.

A rich man might give a million but have a hundred million left.

This woman gave what she needed to sustain her life that day!

### Romans 12:1-2

I beseech (urge) you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is* your reasonable service. :2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may **prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.**



# “THE WORTH OF WORSHIP”

WHAT MAKES YOU A TRUE BELIEVER!

## 3.) Worship is an obvious result

v.4

### 3a.) It comes from a changed life of new priorities v.4

for all these **out of their abundance** have put in offerings for God,

**abundance** perisseu/w perisseuo, *per-is-syoo'-o*;  
excess, super-amount, that which would not be missed. Giving in a way that is not noticeable to the giver.

It's to give God your disposable income  
or monetary leftovers

**When David went before the Lord to Worship Him...**

**2 Samuel 24:24**

“...for I cannot present burnt offerings to the LORD  
my God that have cost me nothing.”

**Acts 20:35**

I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak.  
And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, “It is more blessed to give  
than to receive.”

### 3b.) It comes from a new heart that's willing to obey v.4

but she **out of her poverty** put in all the **livelihood** that she had.”

“...Out of Her Poverty”

**Jesus' analysis of her priorities is this,**

*“She couldn't wait to give what she had left. She couldn't wait to do it.  
She was looking forward to giving her gift to her God...”*

**2 Corinthians 9:7**

So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not **grudgingly** (*saddened, grieved, troubled*) or of **necessity**; (*to look good, to impress, to blend in*)  
for God loves a **cheerful** giver.

**Cheerful** grk: iJlaro/β **hilaros**, *hil-ar-os*  
("hilarious") glad, joyous, happy, delighted. To celebrate...

This Next Verse is Dedicated to All Those Who Invested with Bernie Madoff

**Matthew 6:19-21**

"Do not lay up for yourselves **treasures** on **earth**, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; **:20** but lay up for yourselves **treasures** in **heaven**, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. **:21**  
For where your **treasures** is, **there** your heart will be also.

**what's your motive for wanting money?**

**1 Timothy 6:10-11**

For the **love of money** is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. **:11**  
But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness.

**WORSHIP IS AN OBVIOUS RESULT**

**3c.) It comes from a sacrificial life at great expense v.4**

but she, out of **her poverty**, put in all the **livelihood** that she had."

**How can someone who's poor, give more?**

she "out **of her poverty**" put in all the **livelihood** that she had."

The LORD is far more concerned about the motive  
Than He is about the amount...

Jesus looks not to the amount given,  
But how much is left after we give.

**Here is The Key to Understanding This Fully**

It's wrapped up in one powerful word... - **livelihood**

**The Old King James Version is Strong Here;**  
**livelihood** - bi÷oß bios, bee´ her present state of existence.  
That which is needed to sustain life. To live on. To continue.

**She was choosing to give to God rather than eat.**  
She was giving to God before she paid any bills or bought any clothes.

“My goodness – this is all I have left. Well then, this is a perfect opportunity for me to bless my God and Savior with my little big offering!!!” - Love, A Certain Widow

Nothing Dedicated To The Lord  
Is ever lost or forgotten with God

**2 Corinthians 9:6**

But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly,  
and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.

**Church - Please Forgive Me in Advance, But**

I believe that when that woman went home to die, she walked into her condo and found her cupboards full of food...

(Imagine, Wahoo’s fish tacos, in & out burgers, cheesecake factory cheesecake, California pizza kitchen pizza, Mimi’s liver and onions...

**Malachi 3:10**

Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house, And try Me now in this,” Says the LORD of hosts, “If I will not open for you the windows of heaven And pour out for you such blessing That there will not be room enough to receive it.

*End of Study*