

Monday, October 16th,

Luke 21:1-4- “He looked up and saw rich people putting their gifts into the treasury; ²he also saw a poor widow put in two small copper coins. ³He said, ‘Truly I tell you; this poor widow has put in more than all of them; ⁴for all of them have contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in all she had to live on.’”

As we enter into a new week, we will be focusing on another aspect that is necessary for a plane to take flight, and that is speed. To overcome the forces of gravity, a plane has to reach a certain speed that is different for every type of plane. Just as there are countless varieties of aircraft, each of us has a unique set of variables necessary to overcome the gravitational forces of money and possessions. But we all need speed, and the way we gain that speed is by recognizing what gifts and skills we can use to build the Kingdom of God.

Our text for today boldly points out that those gifts can come in many shapes and sizes, but the key factor isn't the size of the gift, but rather how faithfully it is used. This story, commonly called “The Widow’s Mite” highlights that God would rather receive a small gift given out of faith and obedience, rather than a large gift that requires no sacrifice or discipline. For us to gain the speed we need to conquer the gravitation pull of money and possessions, we have to learn sacrificial generosity, that is to give to God and others even when it makes us uncomfortable.

Sacrificial generosity possesses the power to transform our hearts because of the way that it forces us to more fully trust in God as our provider and savior. The widow was only willing to offer up her last two coins because her faith called her to obedience and reminded her that

God will continue to provide for her. When we give sacrificially, we put our trust in God and not our bank accounts or IRAs. We become more aware of all that God has already given, which increases our level of gratitude and praise. It is the number one way for us to gain speed, but it is difficult, just like if we were to try and run our fastest. So let us open our hearts to ask God for the strength we need to have the faith of the widow.

Questions for the Day

1. Have you ever felt the difference between giving from abundance versus sacrificially? Can you describe the difference?
2. How can you become more aware of God's blessings in your life today?