

Date: _____



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

Meet Jesus the Sacrifice and... Series, Lesson 44

Lesson Title: Get a Giving Heart

Take Home Point: Jesus gave up his life so we can get a giving heart.

Warm-Up:

Have you ever been on the receiving end of a gift that you knew was given with the expectation that you would reciprocate in some tangible way? How did you feel about both the gift and the giver? By definition, something ceases to be a gift when strings are attached. Giving is the transfer of something from one person to another without regard for benefit to the giver. It may be time, money, or anything else given for the use, benefit, or enjoyment of the recipient. And once a gift is given, the giver has no claim to the gift or its use, or it ceases to be a gift!

Read: Mark 12:41-44

Observation (What happened?):

What was Jesus watching?

What did he point out? What did he appreciate in the widow's giving?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

Were the rich people doing wrong by putting in large amounts of money?

What point was Jesus making in comparing the giving of the rich and the widow?

Insight:

Do you think Jesus expected everyone to give everything they had, just as the widow had done? Well, remember what he said in verse 43, "This poor widow has given more than all the others." Clearly it was not the amount to which Jesus referred since it was less in monetary terms, but what the amount indicated about the woman's giving heart. A giving heart looks past the question, "What can I afford?" A giving heart looks at the need and says, "I can give. I want to give. I will give even though it means I give up something." That's the sacrificial giving Jesus desires. Why? To help us in two ways. First, to help us remember who is the true owner and giver of all we have. We are only stewards of God's property. Second, to help us not get too attached to the things of this world. By giving them away, we acknowledge that our time or possessions are not ours for eternity, but temporary assets for God's use in this world.

Application (What does it mean to me?):

Why do you give what you give? How would you feel about giving publicly as happened in this Bible event? What do you think Jesus would say to his disciples about your giving?

Take time right now to thank Jesus for giving his life for you to be free from sin and all its effects.