

Sept 12, 2021
La Jolla Christian Fellowship
The Sacrifice: Ep. 1 The Economy of God
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Mark 12:41-44

⁴¹Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. ⁴²But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a few cents. ⁴³Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. ⁴⁴They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on."

Setting of the passage: The narrative of the widow's offering is nestled between multiple teachings on money and wealth by Jesus in the synoptic (Matt, Mark, Luke) gospels.

1. **Warning to religious leaders: Mark 12:40** *They devour widows' houses and for a show make lengthy prayers. These men will be punished most severely.*
2. **A lavish gift at Bethany: Mark 14** *"Leave her alone," said Jesus. "Why are you bothering her? She has done a beautiful thing to me. ⁷The poor you will always have with you, and you can help them any time you want. But you will not always have Me.*
3. **The rich and the kingdom of heaven: Mark 10:45** *It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.*
4. **Taxes: Mark 12:17** *Then Jesus said to them, "Give back to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's."*

The opposition of Jesus to the economy of the world: Vs. 41 *Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury.*

Economy: Oikonomia— *the management of a household or of household affairs specifically, the management, oversight, administration, of other's property.*

The economy of the world gratifies itself on power, greed and a lust for more. In stark relief, the one who lives within the economy of God submits themselves to faith, charity, rest and contentment.

Proverbs 17:1

Better a dry crust with peace and quiet than a house full of feasting, with strife.

Supernatural Giving: It is God's desire that you live in the realm of supernatural giving, a realm that encompasses three primary components. It is voluntary, dedicated and sacrificial.

Questions for small groups:

1. The passage of the widow's offering is set amongst multiple other teachings on money. What do they say as a collective?
2. Can you explain the difference between the economy of God and the world's economy?
3. What is the difference between voluntary and involuntary giving?
4. What does it mean to live in the realm of supernatural giving?