

# Coach House Church BEACONS

---

## UN-APPLAUDED HERO

---

27 APRIL 2021

Today I would like to start by reading from Mark 12 :41 which says this:

"Jesus 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. But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a few cents. Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on.""

Widows In Jesus's time had a very hard life. They lived off charity from their neighbours or family members that were willing to provide for them. Often times they were disregarded and destitute as women in general ,and on their own in particular had no social status; status was extremely important in those days. What you had was more important than who you were. They were at the complete mercy of other people.

I'm sure it's not the first time you have heard that Jesus turned societies rules on their head. Disregarded and uneducated people were trusted and empowered with the message of salvation. They were chosen to share this message of salvation with everyone making it available regardless of social status and social rules. Jesus does not keep in high esteem what people keep in high esteem. The Bible tells us that our good deeds are regarded as dirty clothes in the eyes of God. This is because God sees the heart and the motivation behind those deeds. We can fool people but you cannot fool God. A very good example of this we find in Acts 5 where we read about Sapphira and Ananias, a couple who sold a plot of land, as others had done, so that they could give the money to the church.

Unfortunately they lied to the leaders of the church about the price they got. Their motivation was completely wrong. And the consequences for that were terrible.

On the other hand, when people do things for the glory of God, God does not overlook them. At the start of this Beacon, we read about a poor widow putting two very little copper coins in the offering box; we read that people were sitting by watching how much went in the box. Jesus was one of those people watching offerings going in the box. I am convinced that whilst other people were marvelling at how much rich people were able to put in, Jesus was looking inside those peoples hearts and at their motivation knowing exactly their hidden motives and pride. Also, I'm sure that those people kept most of their money for themselves, not like the widow who put in everything she had to live off.

---

What can we learn from this passage and how can we translate it into our lives ?

This is why Jesus mentions the widow but does not mention the other people that have offered more. For the spectators watching the offering box for sure the big donations were the talk of the town. The donors must've been mini celebrities for a day or a week; people talked about them when they were getting together at the street corners and they were comparing and classifying probably the donations from one day to the other.

What can we learn from this passage and how can we translate it into our lives ?

I asked myself this question and this in my answer: God does not look at fame and notoriety. There are people out there with lovely singing voices and speaking gifts - for which I thank God for as I'm not very good at either- gifts which God uses to bless his Church however, human recognition and hundreds and thousands of followers on social media is not - nor should it be- the goal.

Applying the above passage to my life, makes me ask myself other questions like : How well do I serve the Lord - do I give Him everything just like the widow did? And : What is my motivation for serving the way I do? As God know my heart I must confess: I do not give everything all the time and my motivations sometimes are wrong.

Another possible point to take from this passage is something I already mentioned in a different way in this beacon and needs to be repeated : Jesus sees what people do not see, He sees inside a person - their inner thoughts and motives. Also, he does not consider important things that people consider important. He

looks at a faithful heart and an honest desire to serve him. He sees every small service faithful people do for his glory - every cup of water and every bowl of food given in his name; every kind word spoken in season and every person who obeys his word when he says -go!

Let's pray

Lord Jesus, I am more and more aware that those whom you will reward with the greatest crowns are not as likely to be the well-known Christian leaders, or famous people, as the faithful men and women who regularly lay their whole life and livelihood on the line for you. Thank you Lord God that your value system is not like the the value system of the world. Thank you for Jesus through who you made salvation available for everyone for free. Teach us Lord I pray to be more like the widow, teach us to give you everything and trust you completely with our days on this earth.

Amen



---

**ALINA ADSHEAD**



*Coach House Church*

leadership@coachhousechurch.org // 0161 432 5604

the coach house church, 222 wellington road north, stockport sk4 2qn