

Sunday Teacher's Lesson for

LIFE OF CHRIST

The Widow's Offering

Mark 12:41-44

Younger Verse

God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:7

Older Verse

Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:7

Introduction

I want you to think of the last thing you did for someone else. Why did you do it? Today we are going to see what Jesus says about the reason for why we do things for others. Let's listen.

Bible Story

*Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.*

Last week we learned about the two most important rules for us to obey. Jesus told us we need to love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. Then He told us we need to love other people the way we would want to be loved. Jesus was teaching those rules to the crowd.

The people were really enjoying listening to every word that Jesus said. Then Jesus told the people to watch out for the teachers in the temple. He told the crowd that they were more concerned with looking important than loving God.

Jesus had been teaching and answering many questions while He was in the temple. As He was sitting, He watched all the people. The people were in line to place money inside of a box. Why do you think they were putting money there?

The people were giving some of what they earned back to God. The money was going to be used for the church. What do you think the money was used for? The people were giving as much as they wanted to, whenever they went up to the box. Some people gave a lot of money, others not as much. The rich people gave a bunch of money and made sure everyone saw how much they put in.

A poor widow had been waiting for her turn in line. What does it mean to be a widow? That means she was married, but her husband had died, and she was living by herself. The whole time she was holding something in her hand. What do you think she was holding? She had some money she wanted to give too. When it was her turn to put the money in, she dropped in two very small copper coins. The Bible says those two coins were worth less than a penny!

After Jesus watched this take place, He called His disciples over to talk to them. What do you think He wanted to talk about? He told them, "I tell you the truth, that poor widow gave more money than all the other people." What do you think Jesus means by this? Then Jesus said, "The other people only gave a little of their money, but she gave all the money she had."

Lesson Goals

To know that God uses the money we give to Him.

To understand the reason for giving is more important than what is given.

To see how having a God like attitude is important when we are doing things for others.

Jesus taught us and His disciples an important lesson here. It is important to give money back to God. He provided the money so that we could take care of the things we need, such as food, clothing, house, and to pay the bills. When money is given to the church, it could be used for many things. It could help people that do not have any money to buy things they need. It could help to pay the church's bills.

Jesus wanted the disciples and us to understand that the money is helpful, but there is something more important to God than the money itself. The reason the money was given is very important. The rich people gave only a small portion of what they had. They knew they still had more money to use on other things.

The poor widow gave all the money she had, which was not very much. She was trusting that God would still provide the things she would need even though she had no money to buy anything. She gave her money because she **really wanted to** give it to God. Not because she had to or because she wanted to look important.

Jesus is showing us the kind of heart and attitude we should have. When we do something for God, whether it is giving money, helping someone, or reading our Bible, our thoughts should not be, "I am doing this because I have to." Or "I hope someone sees me when I do this." We should make the choices we make, and do the things we do, because we are in love with God. Then the things that we do, we do because we are showing God we love Him.

God loves us. That is why He sent Jesus. Jesus showed us how to love God. Jesus showed that when we love God, we show love to the people around us. Jesus loved God and us so much that He died on a cross for us. Three days later, He came back to life. Jesus made it possible for us to be able to live with Him in heaven. If we believe that Jesus died and came back to life, we can ask Him to forgive us for all the wrong things we have done, then we can know in our heart that we will be in Heaven.

Learning Activities

Use one of the ideas on the Activity page to help the children understand the lesson better.

Memory Verse Activities

Give each child part of the verse on a heart. Then have them put themselves and the verse in the right order.

Prayer Time

Ask the children if they have anything to pray about. Pray for those things and pray that their hearts and attitude for why they do things will follow God's ways.

Snack Time/CleanUp

Encourage the children to help you clean up. Don't do it all yourself. They can be servants too! Let them help you pass out snacks and remind them that if they have any questions, they can ask you any time they want.

Planning for Lesson 43
The Lord's Supper
Mark 14:12-26

Preschool Lesson
For
The Widow's Offering

(Bring a box to put out for the children to see.)

(Have them stand up with you for this first part.)

Gather around boys and girls. Today in our story we find that Jesus was still hanging out with His disciples in the church. Jesus had been teaching the people. He loved to share with them about God. After awhile He decided He wanted to sit down.

Let's sit down with Him.

Once He sat down, Jesus began to watch all the people. They were in a line in front of a box. Each person had something in their hand. What do you think they had with them? All of them had money. What do you think they were going to do with the money?

They were all waiting to put money in a box. They were giving money back to God. Some people gave a lot of money and made sure everyone saw them put the money in. (Bring fake money and give the children a chance to put it in the box.) Jesus was still watching when He saw a lady place two small coins in the box. (Drop 2 pennies in the box.)

Jesus then looked at His disciples. He told them, "That lady gave more than all of the other people. She gave all the money she had, but the others still have money left.

The lady was very happy to be able to give all her money. She knew that God would still take care of her, even though she would not be able to buy anything on her own.

Jesus wants us to see how we should feel when we do things for other people. We should do it without complaining, and not because we have to or are trying to get something. Jesus wants us to do things because we WANT to do them.

Jesus did something very special for us. He died on the cross and came back to life. When He did this, He was thinking about God, you, and me. He made a way for us to be with Him in Heaven. If we ask Him to clean out the bad things we've done, and then to live in our hearts, we know that we will get to be with Him one day. Please talk with me if you want Jesus in your heart today.

Hands-On Activities
For
The Widow's Offering

For preschoolers, sort coins. Let them separate coins and put them in bowls or zipper bags. If you believe that small children will put the money in their mouths, tape or glue the coins to construction paper or cardstock.

Make coin rubbings. Place paper over coins and rub with crayons.

Have a coin toss to see who can toss the coin into a bowl. Share how the woman gave all she had to the church.

Glue 2 pennies on an index card and let the kids write the verse on it. Ask them to take the card home and help them remember to have the same attitude as the woman.

Make some jingling musical instruments using pennies and paper cups. Put several coins in a cup and tape another cup on top. Now sing some songs to God and use your new band!

Act out the story. Bring sheets (to use as the woman's head covering). Don't forget the coins!