

June 8

LOCAL CHURCH BUDGET

Do you think of giving offerings as an act of worship? Jesus often talked about the attitude people have toward money. Think about what he said and did in Mark 12: 41-44.

It reads, 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.”

I don't know what the 12 were doing, but he called them to come and notice what he saw. A poor widow gave so little that her offering wasn't enough to buy the cheapest animal for sacrifice. He wanted the disciples to know that in his eyes her offering was greater, more meaningful, than the amounts, large or small, that others gave.

Jesus was telling them that giving offerings is worship. What counts is not the amount; what counts is why you give. The widow's offering revealed that she depended on God, not on her possessions or her ability to get wealth. Returning tithe is how we acknowledge God, that he gave us everything we have. Giving an offering says I am personally invested in what God is doing through the church in this community. We worship by giving. Today's offering supports those efforts through the local church budget.