

**March 20, 2021**

### **Local Church Budget**

Jesus saw the widow bring her offering to the temple. She gave two of the smallest coins in the temple monetary system. She waited until she thought no one was watching, for her gift was so small. Yet, Jesus commended her. "Of a truth I say unto you, that this poor widow hath cast in more than they all." Luke 21:3 How can that be?

The rich gave large coins. But the widow gave her heart as part of her offering.

A Christian writer commented on this passage. "A heart of love and genuine faith in a worthy object is more acceptable to God than the most costly gift. The poor widow gave her living to do the little that she did.... It was this unselfish spirit and unwavering faith that won the commendation of Jesus." {3SP p. 72}

We may think the size of our offering makes it valuable to God. But no, the size of the heart gives value to the gift. God will take the offering we give with our hearts and magnify our offering into something special for His service.

Does this mean we should not sacrifice as we give? Here are the words of Jesus. "For all these have of their abundance cast in unto the offerings of God: but she of her penury hath cast in all the living that she had." Luke 21:4 The widow sacrificed with her heart. As a result, God blessed her gift.