

“Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan came also among them.” (Job 1:6)

Satan comes to present himself before the Lord, and God asks him where he had been. Satan replies that he had been wandering around the earth.

At this point, God begins His bragging about Job. God asks Satan if he had considered Job.

God said there was no one like Job.

God tells Satan that there is no one like Job in all the earth.

Imagine that! God boasted to the devil about a person.

What made Job better?

What is it that made Job unlike anyone else alive in his day? The Bible tells us some things about the character of Job, and we should take note of these.

- Job 1:1 - he was blameless
- Job 1:1 - he feared God
- Job 1:1 - he turned from evil

More could be said of Job’s character, but these traits give great insight into how he pleased God.

Comparisons: The Widow and Job

Now that we have seen that it is possible (in some way) to **“impress”** God, we will briefly examine what the widow and Job had in common.

Powerful love for God!

The poor widow loved God so much that she gave Him all the money she had. Job loved God so much that he attempted to live for Him always.

Strong faith in God!

The poor widow demonstrated such strong faith that Jesus pointed her out to His disciples. She could have trusted in her two mites for her next meal, but instead, she trusted in God! Job’s faith was so vast that he would not renounce God even in the midst of horrible affliction.

Obedience to God!

The poor widow obeyed God’s Word about giving, even though she should have been the recipient instead of the giver. Job remained obedient to God through his trial, to the point of obeying God and praying for his “friends” at the end of it.

“Impressing” God”

If it is possible, **love, faith, and obedience**, mixed with dire circumstances, appear to be the necessary ingredients to **“impress”** God.

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Can we **“impress”** God? Probably not, since impressing someone requires that we exceed their expectations, and since God knows everything, that is not possible.

However, the Bible does include a number of accounts of people who seemed to impress God. We will look at a couple of these Biblical accounts and see what it is that could **“impress”** Him.

The Widow’s Mites

*“And Jesus sat over against the treasury, and beheld how the people cast money into the treasury: and many that were rich cast in much. (42) And there came a certain poor widow, and she threw in two mites, which make a farthing. (43) And **he called unto him his disciples, and saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That this poor widow hath cast more in, than all they which have cast into the treasury: (44) For all they did cast in of their abundance; but she of her want did cast in all that she had, even all her living.”** (Mark 12:41-44)*

The first account that we will review is that of the widow’s offering of her two mites.

IS IT POSSIBLE TO IMPRESS GOD?

Observations:

- Jesus watched what people were giving
- The rich gave much
- The poor widow gave all
- Jesus called the disciples to point her out

As we examine this account, one thing seems very clear... **God's ways are NOT our ways!** Our way of thinking normally follows this pattern...

Poor people who can barely pay their rent or put food on the table should give little or nothing and wealthy people should give more. While this sounds considerate, it does not reflect the way that Jesus views things.

Modern thinking like that above, leaves little room for faith and trusting in God's provision. If the poor widow had followed this thought pattern, she would not have **"impressed"** Jesus, and she would not have been recorded in the Bible.

Jesus watched what people were giving.

This is an interesting observation. Jesus sat near the treasury and **watched** how much the people were giving. If you were sitting in church writing your donation check, how would you feel if the person sitting next to you was watching you write the check?

God's ways are **NOT** our ways!

Obviously, the method of giving in those days was different from how most churches receive offerings today. However, the mentality is the same.

The poor widow was probably ashamed of the very little that she had to give. At the same time, other onlookers were likely impressed with the large sums that the rich gave.

The rich gave much.

This passage tells us that the rich donated large offerings. These public donations to the treasury were very likely convenient events to display one's generosity. This of course contradicts the way that Jesus said we should give.

"But when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth." (Matthew 6:3)

The poor widow gave all.

Jesus puts the giving into proper perspective by applying percentages. The wealthy gave out of their abundance. The poor widow gave out of her desperate need, and she gave it ALL!

Jesus pointed her out to His disciples.

This is the point at which we see that this poor widow **"impressed"** Jesus. He called His disciples over in order to point her out.

Was Jesus impressed, or did He simply want to leave an impression on His disciples? The latter is more likely the case. Either way, the faith and faithfulness of this poor woman is recorded in the Bible for all eternity, as an example to God's people.

Job

The next person that we will look at is an Old Testament example. Job **"impressed"** God so much that God **bragged** about Job to Satan!

*"The Lord said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job? **For there is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, fearing God and turning away from evil.**" (Job 1:8)*

AMAZING!

Observations:

- God brought up Job, not Satan
- God bragged to Satan about Job
- God said there was no one like Job

God brought up Job, not Satan.

Often, when we think of Job, we think in terms that Satan wanted to destroy Job, and surely he did. However, Satan did **NOT** mention Job to God... God boasted about Job to Satan!

God bragged to Satan about Job.