

in her giving (100% of what she had), we would not have this incredible story that demonstrates one way that we can impress Jesus. Praise the Lord; this woman did not listen to those who may have told her to stay home and not give anything (as many would teach her in modern Christianity).

So the question is, "Will you be the one to tell the poor not to give? Not to support the work of the Lord?" Or will you teach them to give faithfully and see God's excellent provision in their own lives?

The poor widow gave far beyond the minimum requirements of the Law!

"Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 5:19)

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## Conclusion

We must never limit the ways of God to the confines of human thinking.

*"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. (9) For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts."*  
(Isaiah 55:8-9)

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# NT Giving

## The Poor Widow

*(An adaptation of a chapter from the ChristLife book, "To Tithe or Not To Tithe? That is the Question")*

By: Robert Dallmann

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"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)

NT GIVING: THE POOR WIDOW

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### God's Ways Are Not Our Ways

When discussing New Testament giving, many Christians embrace a notion that goes something like the following.

**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 loving and kind, it does not reflect the way that Jesus views things. This concept more closely follows specific political thought patterns than that of the Bible. This thinking robs God, the church, and the giver of His blessings that derive from giving.

Here is what the Bible says about the rich giving more and the poor less:

*"The rich shall not give more, and the poor shall not give less than half a shekel, when they give an offering unto the LORD, to make an atonement for your souls."*  
(Exodus 30:15)

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What Jesus Says About The Poor Widow

Re-read the passage from Mark cited at the top of this message and note the details. We see that Jesus "beheld" how people cast their money into the treasury. The word "beheld" is even more interesting when we look at the definition of the Greek word that is used. The following is from the Strong's Concordance.

beheld = Strong's G2334 – "theōreō - to be a spectator, look at, behold - to view attentively, take a view of, survey - to view mentally, consider"

Jesus was not merely looking at what was going on. He was carefully surveying the monetary activity at the treasury. Jesus knew what was about to happen, and He was awaiting this opportunity to teach regarding faith and faithfulness. It was a chance to let His disciples see the way that He saw things.

Jesus watched the wealthy throw in **large sums** of money, and then He saw this poor widow come. She threw in **two mites**, almost nothing, which seems to be right in line with modern thought that the **rich should give more**, and the **poor should give less**.

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### Jesus Is Not In Sync With This Philosophy

Jesus is so impressed with this poor woman's contribution that He calls His disciples over to show them. Jesus brags to His disciples about this woman's faithful generosity. He says that she gave more than all the rest.

This woman was so in love with God that she gave 100% of the money she had to Him. Her faithfulness and trust impressed Jesus so much that He had to show it to His disciples.

If this woman had not been faithful