



## “CONSCIOUS AND INTENTIONAL MINISTRY: DOING WHO I AM”

Also I heard the voice of the Lord saying: “Whom shall I send, And who will go for Us?” Then I said, “Here am I! Send me.” Isaiah 6:8

MARCH 14, 2021

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TEXT: ISAIAH 1:11-15; MARK 12:41-44

TITLE: GOD WANTS THE BEST FOR US AND EXPECTS THE BEST FROM US

### INTRODUCTION

- A. Giving is learned behavior \_\_\_\_\_
- B. How have I learned to give, and how am I teaching others to give? \_\_\_\_\_

### IS GOD SATISFIED WITH WHAT WE ARE GIVING?

- A. From the people’s viewpoint, everything was fine \_\_\_\_\_
  - 1. The people were offering sacrifices. Why?
  - 2. The people were participating in the worship celebrations. Why?
  - 3. The people were lifting their hands and voices to God. Why?
- B. Why would God reject what the people were doing? \_\_\_\_\_
  - 1. The Quality of the Gift (What we give)
  - 2. The Character of the Giver (How we give)
- C. Some of my most cherished gifts... \_\_\_\_\_
- D. The best I give to God is not the amount I give to God \_\_\_\_\_

### JESUS IS SITTING AND WATCHING

- A. Jesus is not sitting and watching **WHAT** we are giving \_\_\_\_\_
  - 1. Many people put in large amounts
  - 2. We tend to focus on the quantity of the gift
- B. Jesus is sitting and watching **HOW** we are giving \_\_\_\_\_
  - 1. A poor widow gave 2 mites
    - a. 2 mites = 3/8 of a cent
    - b. It takes about 6 mites to equal a penny
  - 2. Many rich people put in large amounts
  - 3. Jesus said, “This poor widow has put in more than all those who are giving”

### HOW SHOULD WE GIVE?

**2 Corinthians 9:6, 7,** <sup>6</sup> *The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.* <sup>7</sup> *Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.* (NRSV)

- A. Liberally \_\_\_\_\_
- B. Thoughtfully \_\_\_\_\_
- C. Willingly \_\_\_\_\_
- D. Cheerfully \_\_\_\_\_