

**STORY**

Jesus Talks About Taxes and Offerings - Mark 12:13-17, 41-44

TEACHER PRAYER

Oh, All-Providing God in Heaven, you do daily provide all we need whether it be earthly possessions or Your blessed holy Word. The children you have entrusted to my care this morning need to know You as that loving always-caring God in Heaven. Help me to use Your holy Word to impress on their hearts this important truth. In Jesus' name. Amen.

INTRODUCTION

In today's story Jesus talks about taxes and our offerings. I think you know what offerings are. Offerings are the money we put in the offering plate on Sunday at church. Who is the offering money for? If the offerings are for God, how does the church give the money to God? (Explain how churches use the offerings to serve God and His kingdom.) Do you know what taxes are? Taxes are the money we pay to our country's government. You pay taxes when you buy something at the store. (Briefly present a small item such as a book. Explain that it costs \$1.00. Show the dollar you would have to pay the cashier and the extra pennies (sales tax) that you would have to pay. Explain that the extra money goes to our government to pay for policemen, firemen, fire trucks, soldiers, building roads and schools, etc. Explain how necessary these things are for our lives. Explain good and bad attitudes people have about paying taxes.)

PRESENTATION

Use dollars, coins, pennies, and an offering basket to tell the story. If you don't have real dollar bills, then use Monopoly money.

THE STORY

Jesus had many enemies who hated Him. They hated Him so much they wanted to kill Him. These enemies were looking for a reason to kill Jesus. They tried to find a hard question for Jesus so that they could get Him in trouble.

First they said nice things to Jesus to try to trick Him. They said, "Teacher, we know that you always tell the truth and teach God's Word rightly. Jesus knew that they didn't really mean these nice things that they said.

Then they asked, "Should we pay taxes to our rulers or not?" They were trying to get Jesus in trouble. Most Jews hated their ruler and did not want to pay taxes to him. If Jesus said, "Yes, you should pay taxes," then the Jewish people would not like Jesus. If Jesus said, "No, don't pay taxes to the ruler," then the ruler would be angry at Jesus and might put Him in jail.

Jesus could look into His enemies' hearts. He saw how much they hated Him and were trying to trick Him so they could kill Him. Jesus knew this was a sin. He tried to warn them to be sorry about their bad sin. He said, "Why are you trying to trick me? Bring me a coin. I want to see it."

They brought Jesus the coin. Jesus asked them, "Whose picture is on this coin?"

The enemies said, "Our Ruler's."

Jesus answered, "Give to your ruler what belongs to the ruler, and give to God what is due to God."

The enemies were amazed at how wisely Jesus spoke. They were not able to trick Him or get Him into trouble.

Later, Jesus was sitting in the temple watching people put their money in the offering boxes. Because He is God, Jesus could look into each person's heart and mind as they were giving their offerings.

Many rich people gave large amounts of money. But a poor widow came who put two small coins in that were worth even less than a penny.

Jesus called His disciples to Him and said, “I tell you the truth, this poor widow has given more than all the other people. All the other people gave some of the money they had left over after they bought for themselves what they wanted. But she put in all her money, even though she needed it for herself to live on.”

LEVEL 1

REVIEW

Why did the enemies want to kill Jesus? (*They hated Him.*)

What was in their hearts to make them feel that way? (*Sin*)

Did Jesus still love His enemies? (*Yes*)

How did Jesus show His love for His enemies? (*He warned them of their sin. He wanted them to see their sin and be sorry for it. Unfortunately, they weren't sorry.*)

What did Jesus say we should give to our rulers? (*taxes [money]*)

What did Jesus say we should give to God? (*The First Commandment gives us our answer: “You shall have no other gods. What does this mean? We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things.” Offerings and good works are a fruit of faith that show our fear, love, and trust for God.*)

Do you think the widow ever sinned? (*Yes*)

Who did she pray to when she was sorry for her sins? (*God*)

Who forgave her sins? (*God*)

How did this make her feel? (*happy, relieved*)

Where would she go when she died because her sins were forgiven? (*heaven*)

How did this make her feel? (*happy*)

How did she show her love and thankfulness to God for eternal life? (*She gave all she had.*)

Was Jesus pleased that the widow had faith in Him? (*Yes*)

Was Jesus pleased with the widow's offering? (*Yes*)

OUTER AIM

Jesus was pleased with the widow's offering because she gave it with love and thankfulness.

APPLICATION

Do we ever sin? (*Yes*)

How often do we sin? (*Many times each day*)

Can we go to heaven if we are full of sin? (*no*)

What should we tell God when we sin? (*I'm sorry, please forgive me.*)

How did Jesus pay for our sins? (*by dying on the cross*)

Who washes away our sins? (*Jesus*)

When our sins are washed away and we believe in God, can we go to heaven? (*Yes*)

How can we show God we love Him and are happy that we'll go to heaven? (*Many ways – prayers of thanksgiving, praise, obedience, sharing the Gospel, and also giving offerings*)

When we give offerings in church what are we showing God? (*love and thankfulness*)

INNER AIM

We show our love and thankfulness to God by giving Him offerings.

MEMORY WORK

We love Him because He first loved us. 1 John 4:19

Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever. Psalm 107:1

We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things. (Luther's explanation to the first commandment)

Hymn: #442 v. 1-2

Lord of Glory, who hast bo't us
With Thy life-blood as the price,
Never grudging for the lost ones
That tremendous sacrifice;
And with that hast freely given
Blessings countless as the sand
To th' unthankful and the evil
With Thine own unsparing hand;

Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to yield Thee
Gladly, freely, of Thine own;
With the sunshine of Thy goodness
Melt our thankless hearts of stone
Till our cold and selfish natures,
Warmed by Thee, at length believe
That more happy and more blessed
'Tis to give than to receive.

PRAYER

Dear Heavenly Father, You have given us so much. The whole world was created by You as a gift for us. Thank You for the many gifts you give us of food, clothes, family, and homes. Thank you also for Your best gift of all, Your Son, Jesus Christ. Through Jesus' death on the cross You have given us the gift of forgiveness and eternal life. We give You our offerings because we love You and want to thank you. Please accept them for Jesus' sake. Amen.

LEVEL 2

REVIEW

Why did the enemies want to kill Jesus? (*They hated Him.*)

What was in their hearts to make them feel this way? (*Sin*)

Did Jesus still love His enemies? (*Yes*)

How did Jesus show His love for them? (*He warned them of their sin.*)

What was Jesus trying to show them was in their hearts? (*Sin*)

Were they sorry for their sin? (*No*)

What did Jesus say we should give our rulers? (*taxes [money]*)

What did Jesus say we should give to God? (*We should give God what is due Him. The First Commandment tells us what is due God: "We should have no other gods. What does this mean? We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things." Good works and offerings are a fruit of faith.*)

OUTER AIM

We should pay taxes to our rulers and give offerings to God.

Did the widow give an offering to God? (*Yes*)

Was it very much money? (*No, worth less than a penny*)

Did the rich people give offerings to God? (*Yes*)

Were their offerings very much money? (*Yes*)

Who did Jesus say gave more, the rich people or the widow? (*the widow*)

How could the widow's offering be more if she gave so little money? (*She gave God all the money she had.*)

Who was showing more love for Jesus, the widow or the rich people? (*widow*)

Did the rich people have enough money to buy all the things they wanted and needed? (*Yes*)

Did the widow have enough money to buy all the things she needed? (*No*)

How much money did she have left for herself after she gave her offering? (*Nothing*)

Was she worried about how she would buy food to eat? (*No*)

Who did she trust would give her the food and the clothes she would need? (*God*)

Was the woman angry at God that she was poor or had lost her husband? (*No*)

She was showing respect for God in the way He was directing her life. Another word in the Bible for this respect is **fear**. When the Bible says we should fear God it means that we should respect Him, stand in awe of Him, and want to obey Him as our ruler.

Let all the earth fear the Lord; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him. Psalm 33:8 (We should fear God.)

The widow, by giving her offering, was showing fear, love, and trust for God.

INNER AIM

We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things.

APPLICATION

Do you think the widow always feared, loved, and trusted God as she should? (*No*)

Do you think she may have been worried sometimes? (*Yes*)

Do you think she may have loved other things or people more than God sometimes? (*Yes*)

Do you think she may have showed a lack of respect for God by disobeying Him sometimes? (*Yes*)

What do we call it when we worry, love others more than God, and disobey God? (*Sin*)

What do you think the widow did when she sinned? (*Asked God to forgive her*)

Who forgave her sins? (*God, for Jesus' sake*)

Do we ever show a lack of respect for God by disobeying His commands? (*Yes*)

Do we ever worry? (*Yes*)

Do we sometimes love things or ourselves more than we love God? (*Yes*)

What do we call it when we do those things? (*Sin*)

What should we do when we sin? (*Tell God we're sorry and ask Him to forgive us*)

Will God forgive us? (*Yes*) Why? (*He forgives us because Jesus paid for our sins on the cross.*)

Who always respected God and kept all of His commandments? (*Jesus*)

Who always trusted the Heavenly Father for all He needed? (*Jesus*)

Who always loved God above all things? (*Jesus*)

Jesus always feared, loved, and trusted God above all things for us.

We call this Jesus' righteousness. All the right things Jesus did, He did for us, because He knew we couldn't keep all of God's commandments. Now when God looks at us, He doesn't see all our sin. Jesus washed those away. Instead God sees all the right things Jesus did for us.

Because God forgives our sins and makes us righteous, where will we go when we die? (*heaven*)

How does this make us feel? (*happy, thankful*)

How can we show God we are thankful and happy? (*Many ways – offerings, thanks and praise in our prayers, tell others the Gospel, obey God, help at church, help other people*)

MEMORY WORK

Let all the earth fear the Lord; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him. Psalm 33:8 (We should fear God.)

We love Him because He first loved us. 1 John 4:19 (We should love God.)

Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth. Psalm 124:8 (This is the God we trust in.)

1st Commandment

You shall have no other gods.

What does this mean?

We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things.

Hymn: 442 v. 1-2

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Never grudging for the lost ones
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Warmed by Thee, at length believe
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'Tis to give than to receive.

PRAYER

Dear Heavenly Father, We are sorry when we don't respect (fear) You enough to obey Your commandments. We're sorry when we love other things or people more than You. We're sorry when we don't trust You. Please forgive us for Jesus' sake. Thank You for sending Jesus who perfectly feared, loved, and trusted You in our place. Help us to show our love and thankfulness to You in our offerings, prayers, and obedience to Your commands. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

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Jesus could look into His enemies' hearts. He saw how much they hated Him and were trying to trick Him so they could kill Him. Jesus knew this was a sin. He tried to warn them to be sorry about their bad sin. He said, "Why are you trying to trick me? Bring me a coin. I want to see it."

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Later, Jesus was sitting in the temple watching people put their money in the offering boxes. Because He is God, Jesus could look into each person's heart and mind as they were giving their offerings.

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LEVEL 1

REVIEW

Why did the enemies want to kill Jesus? (*They hated Him.*)

What was in their hearts to make them feel that way? (*Sin*)

Did Jesus still love His enemies? (*Yes*)

How did Jesus show His love for His enemies? (*He warned them of their sin. He wanted them to see their sin and be sorry for it. Unfortunately, they weren't sorry.*)

What did Jesus say we should give to our rulers? (*taxes [money]*)

What did Jesus say we should give to God? (*The First Commandment gives us our answer: “You shall have no other gods. What does this mean? We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things.” Offerings and good works are a fruit of faith that show our fear, love, and trust for God.*)

Do you think the widow ever sinned? (*Yes*)

Who did she pray to when she was sorry for her sins? (*God*)

Who forgave her sins? (*God*)

How did this make her feel? (*happy, relieved*)

Where would she go when she died because her sins were forgiven? (*heaven*)

How did this make her feel? (*happy*)

How did she show her love and thankfulness to God for eternal life? (*She gave all she had.*)

Was Jesus pleased that the widow had faith in Him? (*Yes*)

Was Jesus pleased with the widow's offering? (*Yes*)

OUTER AIM

Jesus was pleased with the widow's offering because she gave it with love and thankfulness.

APPLICATION

Do we ever sin? (*Yes*)

How often do we sin? (*Many times each day*)

Can we go to heaven if we are full of sin? (*no*)

What should we tell God when we sin? (*I'm sorry, please forgive me.*)

How did Jesus pay for our sins? (*by dying on the cross*)

Who washes away our sins? (*Jesus*)

When our sins are washed away and we believe in God, can we go to heaven? (*Yes*)

How can we show God we love Him and are happy that we'll go to heaven? (*Many ways – prayers of thanksgiving, praise, obedience, sharing the Gospel, and also giving offerings*)

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INNER AIM

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MEMORY WORK

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PRAYER

Dear Heavenly Father, You have given us so much. The whole world was created by You as a gift for us. Thank You for the many gifts you give us of food, clothes, family, and homes. Thank you also for Your best gift of all, Your Son, Jesus Christ. Through Jesus' death on the cross You have given us the gift of forgiveness and eternal life. We give You our offerings because we love You and want to thank you. Please accept them for Jesus' sake. Amen.

LEVEL 2

REVIEW

Why did the enemies want to kill Jesus? (*They hated Him.*)

What was in their hearts to make them feel this way? (*Sin*)

Did Jesus still love His enemies? (*Yes*)

How did Jesus show His love for them? (*He warned them of their sin.*)

What was Jesus trying to show them was in their hearts? (*Sin*)

Were they sorry for their sin? (*No*)

What did Jesus say we should give our rulers? (*taxes [money]*)

What did Jesus say we should give to God? (*We should give God what is due Him. The First Commandment tells us what is due God: "We should have no other gods. What does this mean? We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things." Good works and offerings are a fruit of faith.*)

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How could the widow's offering be more if she gave so little money? (*She gave God all the money she had.*)

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Did the rich people have enough money to buy all the things they wanted and needed? (*Yes*)

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Was the woman angry at God that she was poor or had lost her husband? (*No*)

She was showing respect for God in the way He was directing her life. Another word in the Bible for this respect is **fear**. When the Bible says we should fear God it means that we should respect Him, stand in awe of Him, and want to obey Him as our ruler.

Let all the earth fear the Lord; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him. Psalm 33:8 (We should fear God.)

The widow, by giving her offering, was showing fear, love, and trust for God.

INNER AIM

We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things.

APPLICATION

Do you think the widow always feared, loved, and trusted God as she should? (*No*)

Do you think she may have been worried sometimes? (*Yes*)

Do you think she may have loved other things or people more than God sometimes? (*Yes*)

Do you think she may have showed a lack of respect for God by disobeying Him sometimes? (*Yes*)

What do we call it when we worry, love others more than God, and disobey God? (*Sin*)

What do you think the widow did when she sinned? (*Asked God to forgive her*)

Who forgave her sins? (*God, for Jesus' sake*)

Do we ever show a lack of respect for God by disobeying His commands? (*Yes*)

Do we ever worry? (*Yes*)

Do we sometimes love things or ourselves more than we love God? (*Yes*)

What do we call it when we do those things? (*Sin*)

What should we do when we sin? (*Tell God we're sorry and ask Him to forgive us*)

Will God forgive us? (*Yes*) Why? (*He forgives us because Jesus paid for our sins on the cross.*)

Who always respected God and kept all of His commandments? (*Jesus*)

Who always trusted the Heavenly Father for all He needed? (*Jesus*)

Who always loved God above all things? (*Jesus*)

Jesus always feared, loved, and trusted God above all things for us.

We call this Jesus' righteousness. All the right things Jesus did, He did for us, because He knew we couldn't keep all of God's commandments. Now when God looks at us, He doesn't see all our sin. Jesus washed those away. Instead God sees all the right things Jesus did for us.

Because God forgives our sins and makes us righteous, where will we go when we die? (*heaven*)

How does this make us feel? (*happy, thankful*)

How can we show God we are thankful and happy? (*Many ways – offerings, thanks and praise in our prayers, tell others the Gospel, obey God, help at church, help other people*)

MEMORY WORK

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1st Commandment

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Jesus Speaks of Taxes & Offerings

Mark 12:13-17, 41-44



Mark 12:43-44 So He called His disciples to Himself and said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all those who have given to the treasury; for they all put in out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all that she had, her whole livelihood."



The Story

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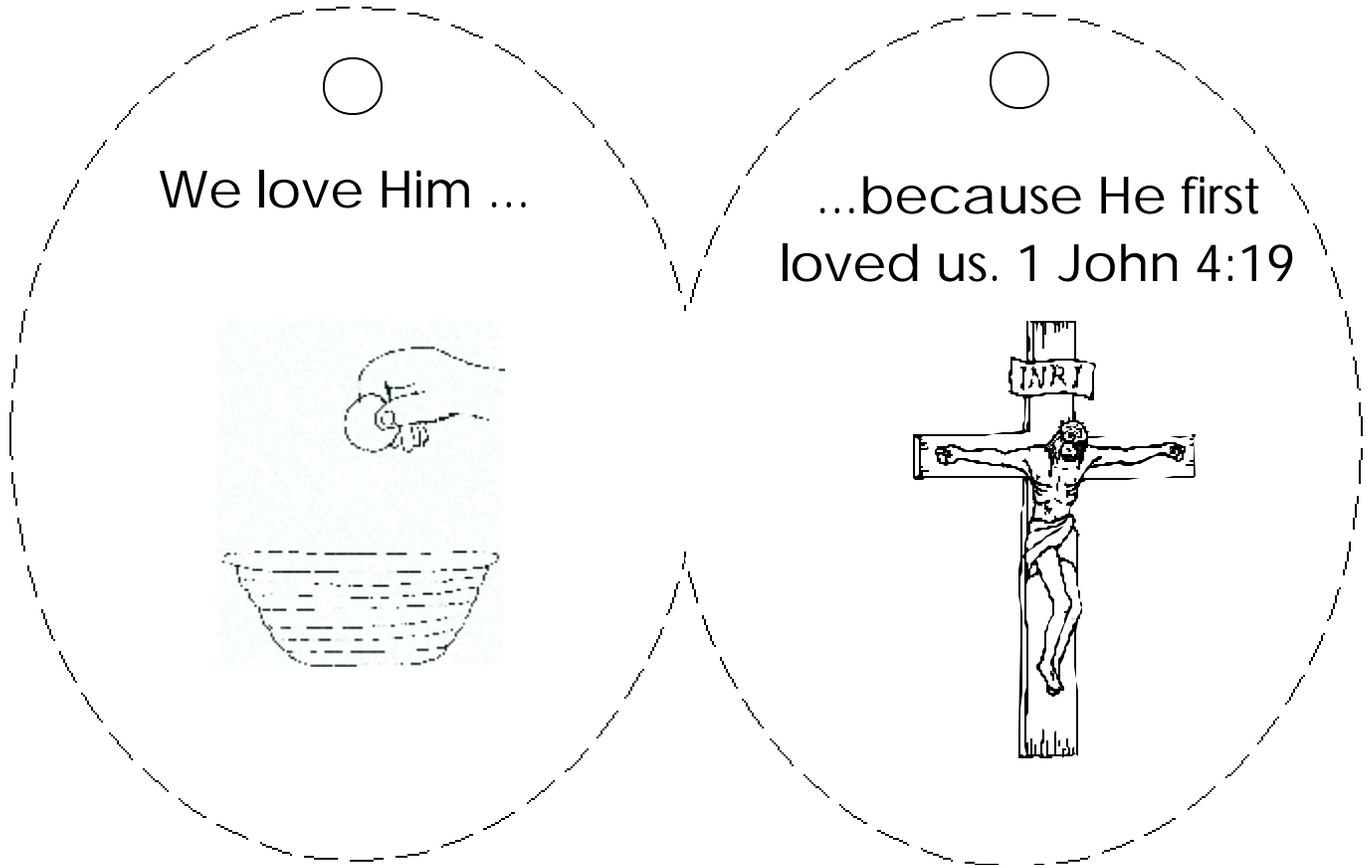
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Activity One - Color the sad/hateful face if the person doesn't have love for Jesus.
Color the happy face and the heart if the people have love for Jesus in their heart.

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. How did the enemies feel about Jesus? | 1.    |
| 2. How did Jesus feel about His enemies? | 2.    |
| 3. How did the enemies feel when Jesus warned them about their sin? | 3.    |
| 4. How do you think the widow felt about her sins? | 4.    |
| 5. How did the widow feel about being forgiven? | 5.    |
| 6. How did the widow feel about Jesus? | 6.    |
| 7. How did Jesus feel about the widow? | 7.    |
| 8. How do we feel about our sins? | 8.    |
| 9. How do we feel when Jesus has forgiven our sins? | 9.    |
| 10. How do we feel when we know we will go to heaven because our sins are forgiven? | 10.    |
| 11. How should we feel about giving our offerings to God? | 11.    |

Activity Two - Color and cut out the ovals leaving them attached to each other. Fold and glue them together. Punch a hole at the top. Add string or yarn for a necklace or door hanger.



We show our love and thankfulness to God by giving Him offerings.

Passages

1 John 4:19 - We love Him because He first loved us.

Psalms 107:1 - Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever.

The First Commandment © Sydow Catechism 2000

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The Story

Jesus had many enemies who hated Him. They hated Him so much they wanted to kill Him. These enemies were looking for a reason to kill Jesus. They tried to find a hard question for Jesus so that they could get Him in trouble.

First they said nice things to Jesus to try to trick Him. They said, "Teacher, we know that you always tell the truth and teach God's Word rightly." Jesus knew that they didn't really mean these nice things that they said.

Then they asked, "Should we pay taxes to our rulers or not?" They were trying to get Jesus in trouble. Most Jews hated their ruler and did not want to pay taxes to him. If Jesus said, "Yes, you should pay taxes," then the Jewish people would not like Jesus. If Jesus said, "No, don't pay taxes to the ruler," then the ruler would be angry at Jesus and might put Him in jail.

Jesus could look into His enemies' hearts. He saw how much they hated Him and were trying to trick Him so they could kill Him. Jesus knew this was a sin. He tried to warn them to be sorry about their bad sin. He said, "Why are you trying to trick me? Bring me a coin. I want to see it."

They brought Jesus the coin. Jesus asked them, "Whose picture is on this coin?"

The enemies said, "Our Ruler's." Jesus answered, "Give to your ruler what belongs to the ruler, and give to God what is due to God."

The enemies were amazed at how wisely Jesus spoke. They were not able to trick Him or get Him into trouble.

Later, Jesus was sitting in the temple watching people put their money in the offering boxes. Because He is God, Jesus could look into each person's heart and mind as they were giving their offerings.

Many rich people gave large amounts of money. But a poor widow came who put two small coins in that were worth even less than a penny.

Jesus called His disciples to Him and said, "I tell you the truth, this poor widow has given more than all the other people. All the other people gave some of the money they had left over after they bought for themselves what they wanted. But she put in all her money, even though she needed it for herself to live on."

Jesus was pleased with the widow's offering because she gave it with love and thankfulness.

Activity One - Fill in the blanks with the correct name from the WORD BOX. You will use the names more than once.

enemies	Jesus	rulers	God	rich people	widow
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1. Jesus' _____ tried to trap Jesus with a hard question.
2. _____ loved His enemies.
3. _____ warned His enemies about the sin in their hearts.
4. Jesus said we should pay taxes to our _____.
5. Jesus said we should give to _____ our offerings.
6. The _____ gave to God the money they had left over.
7. The _____ gave to God all the money she had.
8. The _____ showed she loved God very much.
9. _____ took care of the widow and gave her the things she needed.
10. The _____ showed she trusted God.
11. The _____ showed she feared (respected, obeyed) God.

Hymn - TLH #442 v. 1-2

Lord of Glory, who hast bo't us
With Thy life-blood as the price,
Never grudging for the lost ones
That tremendous sacrifice;
And with that hast freely given
Blessings countless as the sand
To th' unthankful and the evil
With Thine own unsparing hand;

Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to yield Thee
Gladly, freely, of Thine own;
With the sunshine of Thy goodness
Melt our thankless hearts of stone
Till our cold and selfish natures,
Warmed by Thee, at length believe
That more happy and more blessed
'Tis to give than to receive.

Activity Two -

Fill in the blanks with the words **fear**, **love** or **trust**.

The First Commandment © Sydow Catechism 2000

You shall have no other gods.

What does this mean?

We should **fear**, **love** and **trust** in God above all things.

1. We show we _____ God when we respect and obey Him.
2. We show we _____ God when we don't worry.
3. We show we _____ God when we sing praises to Him.
4. We show we _____ God when we pray in times of trouble.
5. We show we _____ God when we don't want to anger God by sinning.
6. We show we _____ God when we share God's Word with others.
7. We show we _____ God when we give Him our offerings.

Passages

Psalm 33:8 - Let all the earth fear the LORD; Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him. (*We should fear God.*)

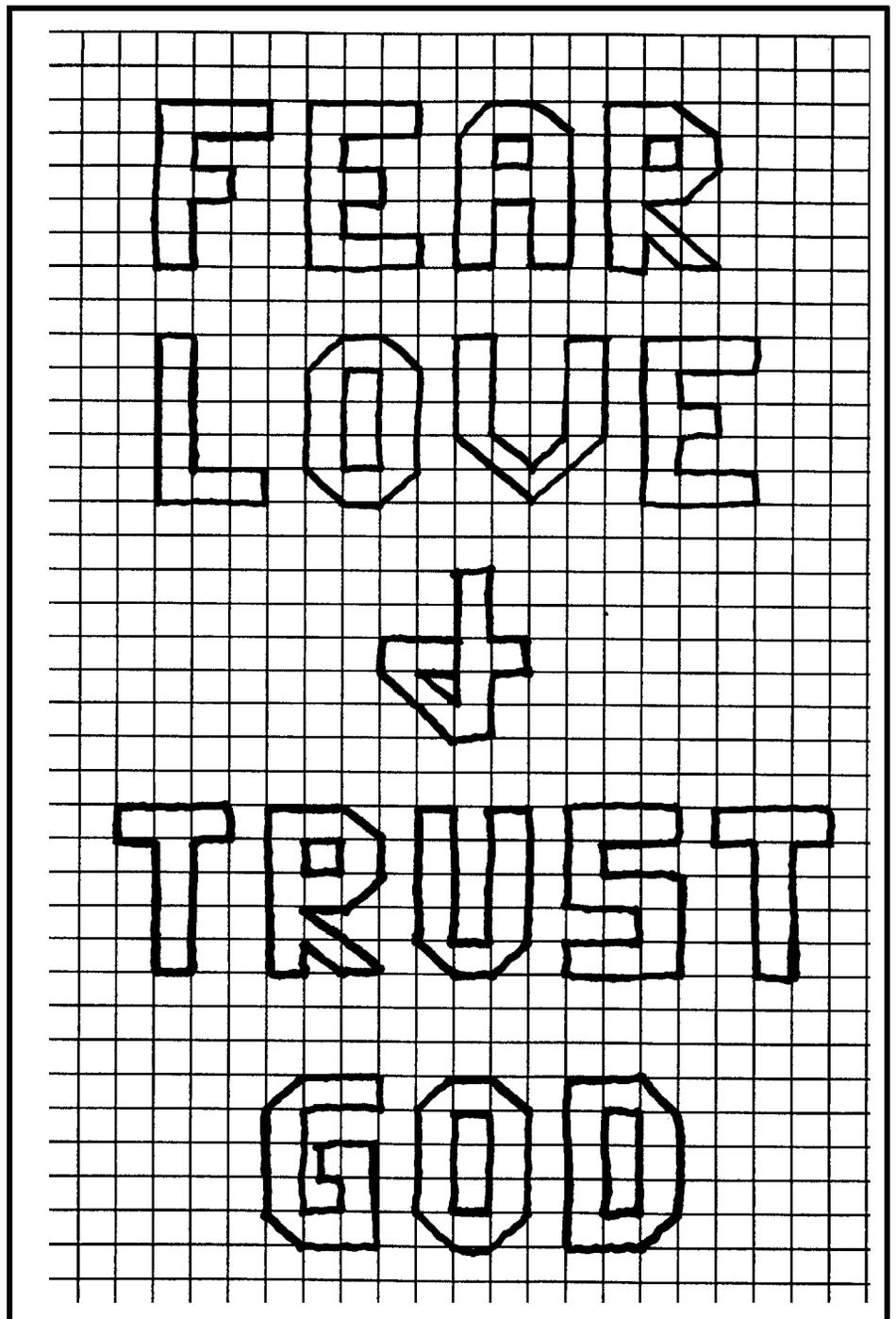
1 John 4:19 - We love Him because He first loved us. (*We should love God.*)

Psalm 124:8 - Our help is in the name of the LORD, Who made heaven and earth. (*This is the God we trust.*)

We show our love and thankfulness to God by giving Him offerings.



Activity Three - Color the squares inside the letters with warm colors (red, yellow, orange). Color the squares outside the letters with cool colors (blue, green, purple).



Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, We are sorry when we don't respect (fear) You enough to obey Your commandments. We're sorry when we love other things or people more than You. We're sorry when we don't trust You. Please forgive us for Jesus' sake.

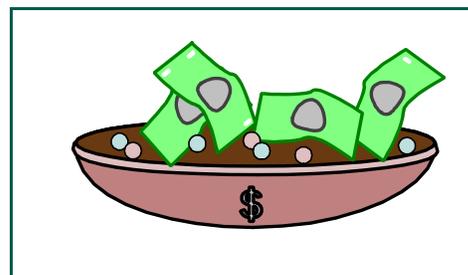
Thank You for sending Jesus who perfectly feared, loved, and trusted You in our place. Help us to show our love and thankfulness to You in our offerings, prayers, and obedience to Your commands. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Jesus Speaks of Taxes & Offerings

Mark 12:13-17, 41-44

"Aw! Do I have to do it?" This is something a student might be tempted to say about a math assignment. It shows a lack of understanding that doing that math assignment can help you grow in your understanding and abilities in math. Math assignments can be very beneficial!

"Aw! Do I have to?" may sometimes be the attitude of a Christian towards giving offerings in church. If so, then it shows a lack of understanding that giving offerings can be very beneficial for our faith. It can be a means through which God strengthens our love and trust for Him. As you study this lesson, take a close look at the attitudes being displayed in the hearts of the people both toward God and toward their offerings.



Prayer

Dear Lord, Please help us to see all the blessings You have given us. Help us to respond to Your gifts with thankful and loving hearts. Help us to grow in our fear, love, and trust of You. Amen

The Story - Mark 12:13-17, 41-44

Then they sent to Him some of the Pharisees and the Herodians, to catch Him in His words. {14} When they had come, they said to Him, "Teacher, we know that You are true, and care about no one; for You do not regard the person of men, but teach the way of God in truth. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not? {15} "Shall we pay, or shall we not pay?"

But He, knowing their hypocrisy, said to them, "Why do you test Me? Bring Me a denarius that I may see it." {16} So they brought it. And He said to them, "Whose image and inscription is this?"

They said to Him, "Caesar's."

{17} And Jesus answered and said to them, "Render to Caesar the things that

are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's."

And they marveled at Him.

(41) Now Jesus sat opposite the treasury and saw how the people put money into the treasury. And many who were rich put in much. {42} Then one poor widow came and threw in two mites, which make a quadrans.

{43} So He called His disciples to Himself and said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all those who have given to the treasury; {44} "for they all put in out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all that she had, her whole livelihood."

Outer Aim - We should fear, love and trust in God above all things. (Fear – stand in awe of, give glory to, respect, hate evil for God's sake)



What the Story Tells Us - Discuss the following questions and their answers.

1. How were the Herodians and Pharisees trying to trap Jesus?
2. How were their words hypocritical?
3. Who is "Caesar?" What do we owe to "Caesar?" (Rom. 13:7 will give you more clues.)
4. Did the Jews want to obey God in this command?
5. What should we render to God? (The 1st Commandment with Luther's explanation can answer this.)
6. Jesus was reading the hearts of the hypocrites. Were they showing fear, love, and trust to Jesus? How were they showing a lack of fear? Lack of love? Lack of trust?
7. What is a widow?
8. Were widows able to get jobs in Jesus' day, or did they have life insurance policies? How were widows taken care of in Jesus' day?
9. Jesus was reading the hearts of the widow and others who gave their offerings. Were most of the gift-givers in the temple showing God He is first in their lives? How can you tell?
10. How did the widow show fear for God? How did she show love for God? How did she show trust in God?
11. The widow showed that God was the most important one in her life. Who had worked this faith in her heart?
12. Do you think she ever broke the 1st Commandment by worrying? Were there times when she disobeyed God's commandments? Who had forgiven her sins? Who had made her faith strong?

Inner Aim - We fear, love and trust in God. He saved us from sin, death and the devil. Our offerings are a fruit of our faith in God.

What God's Word Tells Us - Answer these questions together.

1. In the Old Testament, people often gave bulls, rams, lambs, goats, etc. as their offering. What happened to these animals?
2. Did these sacrifices pay for their sins?
3. Of what were these sacrifices supposed to remind the people?
4. Besides gifts given with love and thanksgiving, the animals given were a reminder of God's love and sacrifice of His Son for us. Who has given us all that we have?
5. Does God need our money? Explain your answer.
6. Why do we give offerings?
7. Do our offerings ever buy God's favor and our forgiveness? Who only could buy God's favor and forgiveness for us?
8. Jesus did this by buying us back from sin, death and the power of the devil. What price did Jesus have to pay for our forgiveness? (2nd Article – explanation)
9. How can our offerings be a reminder of Jesus' sacrifice for us?

Your Turn - The following passages show what our attitude toward giving should be.

Malachi 3:9b-12

2 Corinthians 9:6-7

Matthew 6:8

1 John 4:19

Mark each example below if it is a correct (YES) or an incorrect (NO) attitude to have in giving offerings.

YES NO

___ ___ I committed a really bad sin yesterday. I better put some extra money in the offering plate to make up for it.

___ ___ I sure have a lot of bills this week but I know God will provide for me. I won't let the pile of bills keep me from giving my offering.

___ ___ Oh, no! Here comes the offering plate! I better put some money in or people will think I'm stingy.

___ ___ I want to save my money for a new bike before I put an offering in the plate.

___ ___ Maybe God will love me more if I give Him a big offering.

___ ___ God has given me so many blessings, I'm glad to share my money with the Nigerian and Indian orphans.

___ ___ Just think, Jesus paid for all of my sins. I want to say "thank you" to Jesus with my offering.

___ ___ I hope people saw how much money I gave in my offering.

Your Turn Again - Use the explanation to the 2nd Article below to fill in the cross. The numbers will help you fill in the correct words

from

Jesus
has redeemed me...
purchased and
won me...

not with

not with

but with His

7 _____,
8 _____
9 _____
and His
10 _____,
11 _____,
and
12 _____,

The Second Article
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What does this mean?

I believe that Jesus Christ...has redeemed me...purchased and won me from all (1) sin, from (2) death, and from the (3)power of the (4) devil, not with (5) gold or (6) silver, but with His (7) holy, (8)precious (9) blood and His (10) innocent (11) suffering and (12) death.

You Finish the Story - We know the widow trusted in God to provide for her needs. Often our gifts to God come in the form of kindness and help to other people. In this way God often provides for the needs of others. Bear this in mind as you think of the following:

What happened to the widow when she went home that day?
How did she get food?

Passages

The First Commandment
© Sydow Catechism 2000

You shall have no other gods.
What does this mean?
We should fear, love and trust
in God above all things.

Psalm 33:8 - Let all the earth fear the LORD; Let all the
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(We should fear God.)

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Psalm 124:8 - Our help is in the name of the LORD, Who
made heaven and earth. *(This is the God we trust.)*

Hymn - TLH #442 v. 1-2 (WS #788 alternative)

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With Thy life-blood as the price,
Never grudging for the lost ones
That tremendous sacrifice;
And with that hast freely given
Blessings countless as the sand
To th' unthankful and the evil
With Thine own unsparing hand;

Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to yield Thee
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With the sunshine of Thy goodness
Melt our thankless hearts of stone
Till our cold and selfish natures,
Warmed by Thee, at length believe
That more happy and more blessed
' Tis to give than to receive.

Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, We could never buy Your forgiveness or favor. Jesus was the only one who could buy us back from sin, death and the devil. Please help us to give our offerings with faith-filled, cheerful hearts. Please help us to remember each time we give our offering that Jesus bought us with His holy, precious blood and innocent suffering and death. Let Jesus' sacrifice be what fills our hearts and lives with love and gratitude for You. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Jesus Speaks of Taxes & Offerings

Mark 12:13-17, 41-44

One of your classmates tells you, "That church stuff is OK for Sunday morning, but I don't want to be bothered with it Monday through Saturday!" Is there a problem with this kind of attitude? How might you respond to this person?

Prayer

Dear Lord, help us to realize that our relationship with You is more than just a two hour commitment on Sunday morning. Help us to realize that You committed Your whole life to us to bring about our salvation. Please move our hearts to want to serve You at all times with our time, talents, material blessings and abilities. Amen



The Story - Mark 12:13-17, 41-44

Then they sent to Him some of the Pharisees and the Herodians, to catch Him in His words. {14} When they had come, they said to Him, "Teacher, we know that You are true, and care about no one; for You do not regard the person of men, but teach the way of God in truth. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not? {15} "Shall we pay, or shall we not pay?"

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Outer Aim - We should fear, love and trust in God above all things. (Fear – stand in awe of, give glory to, respect, hate evil for God’s sake)

What the Story Tells Us - Discuss the following questions and their answers.

1. How did the Pharisees and Herodians think they had trapped Jesus with their question?
2. Who is “Caesar?” What do we owe to “Caesar?” (Rom. 13:7 will give you more clues.)
3. What should we render to God? (The 1st Commandment with Luther’s explanation can answer this.)
4. If we fear (stand in awe of, give glory to, respect, hate evil for God’s sake), love and trust in God above all things, what will that move our hearts to render unto God?
5. Jesus was reading the hearts of the hypocrites. Were they showing fear, love, and trust to Jesus? How were they showing a lack of fear? Lack of love? Lack of trust?
6. The rich people gave much money to the temple treasury. Were they showing God they were putting Him first in their lives?
7. Were widows able to get jobs in Jesus’ day, or did they have life insurance policies? How were widows taken care of in Jesus’ day?
8. In spite of her poverty, what did the widow in the lesson give the Lord?
9. The action of giving all her money showed that she gave herself completely to the Lord. How did the widow show fear for God? How did she show love for God? How did she show trust in God?
10. The widow showed that God was the most important one in her life. Who had worked this faith in her heart?
11. Do you think she ever broke the 1st Commandment by worrying? Who had forgiven her sins?
12. In what way had Jesus made the widow rich? What could she look forward to some day?

What God’s Word Tells Us - Look at the following verses and explain how Jesus gave completely of His whole life for you.

1. In His life - Romans 5:19, Hebrews 4:15
2. In His ministry - Matthew 4:23, John 8:31-32, John 6:68
3. In His death - Isaiah 53:5-6, 1 John 1:7
4. In His resurrection - Romans 4:25, John 14:19
5. In His ascension - 2 Timothy 4:18, Luke 17:21, 1 John 2:1-2

What have we done to deserve Christ’s committing His entire life to us?

Then why did He do it?

How can we thank Jesus for giving Himself completely for us?

Inner Aim - Because Jesus gave Himself completely for me, I want to give myself completely to the Lord and serve Him.

Your Turn - The Jews in the land of Israel were experiencing famine. Other churches in other parts of the world were collecting money to send to Jerusalem to help their Christian brothers in their time of need. St. Paul was writing to the Corinthians to encourage them in their gift giving. He cited the Macedonian Church as an example for the Corinthians to follow in their gift giving.

Read 2 Corinthians and then answer the following questions together.

2 Corinthians 8:1-9

1. What had God first bestowed on the churches in Macedonia? (v. 1)
2. How did God show His grace to His Church?
3. In spite of trials of affliction and poverty, how did the Macedonians give? (v. 2)
4. How much did they give? (v. 3)
5. With what kind of attitude did they give? (v. 4)
6. To whom did they give themselves before they gave their gift? (v. 5)
7. What does it mean to give yourself to the Lord?
8. What did the Corinthians already have that was necessary to have before they could give a gift? (v. 7)
9. In the Old Testament tithing, giving 10% of your income, was a commandment for the people of Israel. If a farmer got 100 new lambs in the spring he was required to give 10 of them to the Lord as an offering. The Lord does not command His New Testament believers to tithe. In verse 8 St. Paul made it clear that it was not a commandment that they collect money for the Jews. Rather it was a test. What was it a test of? Their love for whom?
10. How did Christ prove the sincerity of His love for us? (v. 9) How did Christ become poor? How do we become rich?

2 Corinthians 9:6-7

1. It makes sense that if we put only a few seeds in the ground we will get a small crop. If we sow lots of seeds we will reap a big harvest. How does this apply to our giving of offerings? (Mal. 3:8-12 may help to explain this.)
2. So giving our offerings to the Lord, especially if we have little to begin with, is not only a test of our love for God, but of what else?
3. What not be the attitude of our heart as we give our gifts? (9:7)
4. What should be the attitude of our heart as we give our gifts? (9:7)
5. There are other ways to give our lives to the Lord aside from money. Can you think of any?

Your Turn Again - Look at the examples below and think of what gift is being given to the Lord.

_____ Mr. Brown is very poor and has little money to give for an offering. He decides he wants to mow the church lawn each week and help fix things on the church property.

_____ Mr. Jones is a certified public accountant. He volunteers to be the church treasurer.

_____ Even though it takes time each Saturday to prepare her Sunday School lesson, Mrs. Smith eagerly does so because she loves her students and wants them to have faith in Jesus as their Savior.

_____ Roy's co-worker is very distressed over the death of his brother. Roy gives him some Scripture passages to consider.

_____ Many of the players on Sam's baseball team are poor sports. He decides he'll set a good example and encourage his teammates to improve their behavior.

_____ Nancy doesn't understand why God allowed her to go blind from her accident, but she is willing to trust that God will work out this blindness for her good. She keeps a cheerful attitude.

_____ Stan is a talented musician. He enjoys playing the organ for church and directing the church choir.

_____ Jan feels sorry for the family next door. The mother has just had surgery and can't get out of bed to care for her family. Jan decides to help them by babysitting and fixing meals for them.

_____ Since their congregation was small and still didn't have a church building, the Johnsons offered to have the church services in their home.

_____ Pastor Smith has the call to be a missionary to Africa. After much prayer he is convinced that this is what the Lord wants him to do. Even though he knows he'll miss his family and friends, he's still excited about sharing the Gospel.

What are your special talents?

What are your special interests?

How could you use these to serve the Lord?

Passages

2 Corinthians 8:9 - For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.

2 Corinthians 9:7 - So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.

Colossians 3:23-24 - And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.

Hymn - TLH #442 v. 1-4 (also WS#788)

Lord of Glory, who hast bo't us
With Thy life-blood as the price,
Never grudging for the lost ones
That tremendous sacrifice;
And with that hast freely given
Blessings countless as the sand
To th' unthankful and the evil
With Thine own unsparing hand;

Wondrous honor has Thou given
To our humblest charity
In Thine own mysterious sentence,
"Ye have done it unto Me."
Can it be, O gracious Master,
Thou dost deign for alms to sue,
Saying by Thy poor and needy,
"Give as I have giv'n to you"?

Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to yield Thee
Gladly, freely, of Thine own;
With the sunshine of Thy goodness
Melt our thankless hearts of stone
Till our cold and selfish natures,
Warmed by Thee, at length believe
That more happy and more blessed
'Tis to give than to receive.

Yes, the sorrow and the sufferings
Which on every hand we see
Channels are for gifts and offerings
Due by solemn right to Thee;
Right of which we may not rob Thee;
Debt we may not choose but pay,
Lest that face of love and pity
Turn from us another day.

Prayer

Dear Lord Jesus, We thank and praise You that in Your love You perfectly lived, died and rose again for us. Please forgive us for the times when we don't put You first in our lives. By Your Holy Spirit, stir up our hearts through Your Word to be hearts filled with gratitude and love for You. Help us by Your Spirit to live each day to glorify and serve You. Amen.