

## 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

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 in two small coins 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."

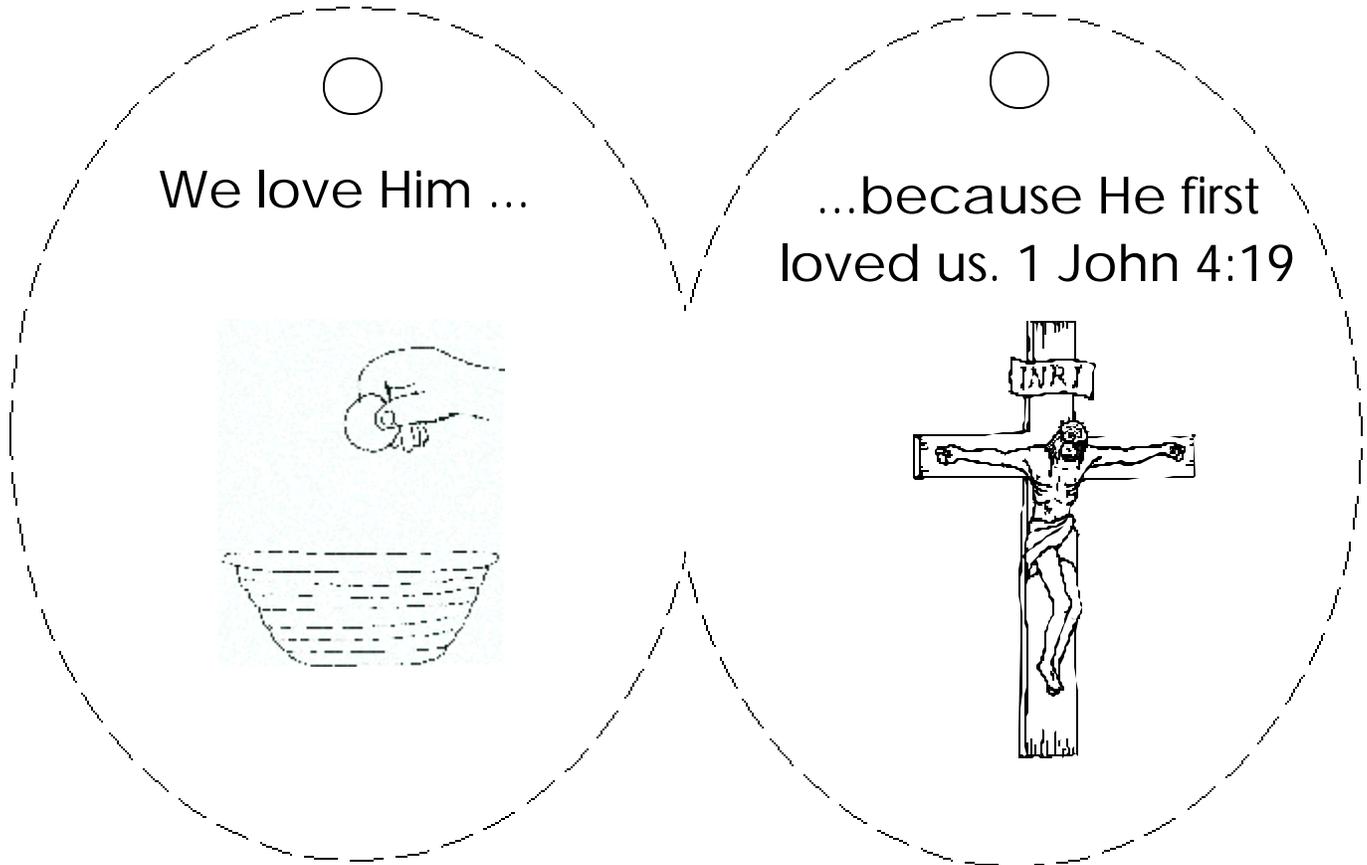
***Jesus was pleased with the widow's offering because she gave it with love and thankfulness.***

**Activity One** - 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.

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

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You shall have no other gods.

What does this mean?

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

## 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.

## 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 — 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.