

All I've Got

Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

2 Corinthians 8:12. "For if there be first a willing mind, it is accepted according to that a man hath, and not according to that he hath not." This verse points out that the attitude is important when giving to the Lord. Everyone does not have the same amount of gifts to give unto the Lord, but everyone can have the same mind and joy of giving. God wants us to give, whatever we have to give, joyfully and with a thankful heart. If a person gives grudgingly, or gives to be seen of men it is not accepted by the Lord.

When Jesus pointed out the two mites given by the poor widow, he remarked that she had given more than all the gifts of the rich men. Man would say that what she gave wasn't worth giving, but God was extremely pleased with what and how she gave. It was not the amount in money, it was the amount in percent that she gave that made the difference. Jesus said that the rich gave of their abundance, but she gave of her want, even all her living. God

wants us to give freely and with joy, not with regret.

This is not just about money, but time and effort as well. If we give to the Lord the scraps of our time, after we have given out best to the world, how can we expect him to be pleased with it? We may not have a great amount of talent, money, or anything else to give to the Lord, but do we give what we can? The Lord doesn't expect anyone to do more than what they can do, but he want us to give our best to him, whether it be time, money, or effort.

I realize that there is so much more that I would like to be able to do for the Lord. Others can, and do, so much that I don't have the ability to do, but I am called on to do, like all of us are, the best that I can for the service of God. I have taken great comfort in what Jesus said about the woman in Mark 14:1-9. He said, "She hath done what she could." If he can say that about us, then we have nothing to worry about. The question is, "Have we done what we could?"

With a smile I remember what my son said when he was a small boy. He wanted a toy that cost more than he could afford. He had some money, but not enough and when I pointed this out to him

he said, "But I'll give them all I've got." That doesn't work here in this world, but if we give the Lord all we've got he will accept it.

When a person gives all he, or she, has got, no more can be given. When a small part is given the person always knows that he could have given more. In such a case it says that the person doesn't trust God to take care of him. This is not just about giving money, it has to do with time, effort, and all the things that we can do in the Lord's service. I don't know how accurate the statement is, but I heard once that 10% of a congregation does 90% of the work. What would the 90% do if this is true? Are they unable or too busy to do anything for the Lord? You and I might not know the answer to this, but rest assured that the Lord knows.

In **Acts 5** we see that Ananias and Sapphira held back when they gave to the Lord. It didn't turn out well for them. If we don't trust the Lord and don't love him then we won't give all we've got to give. All through the bible the Lord called for the first and the best that the people had to give. I may not have as much to give, either in money or service, to the Lord, but I want to be able to give him "all I've got."

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