

Ron Armstrong • April 6 & 7, 2019

The Great Investment: Disciples are Givers

Mark 12:41 Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. **42** But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a few cents.

43 Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. **44** They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on.”

Matthew 26:6 While Jesus was in Bethany in the home of Simon the Leper, **7** a woman came to him with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, which she poured on his head as he was reclining at the table. **8** When the disciples saw this, they were indignant. “Why this waste?” they asked. **9** “This perfume could have been sold at a high price and the money given to the poor.”

10 Aware of this, Jesus said to them, “Why are you bothering this woman? She has done a beautiful thing to me. **11** The poor you will always have with you, but you will not always have me. **12** When she poured this perfume on my body, she did it to prepare me for burial. **13** Truly I tell you, wherever this gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her.”

A. You may think this is about money, but it's not.

1. Generosity isn't in the bank account; generosity is in the heart. Sometimes generosity dresses up like money, but it's STILL not.
2. Great givers give what they have. What do you have?
3. Two reasons to be a great giver:

a. Givers experience life more fully, enjoy greater contentment, and are generally more SUCCESSFUL.

b. When we give we are most like our father. It's his DNA in us.

B. Three primary **INTERACTION** styles: givers, takers, and matchers.

1. None of us is “always” and/or “only” one. We are different things in different relationships, but we do develop a PRIMARY style.

2. Both givers and takers give, but they are motivated to action by different things.

a. A taker weighs the cost to themselves and the benefit to themselves and when the MATH is right, they give.

b. A giver weighs the benefit to the other person with the cost to give. If they can help without OVERWHELMING cost, they give.

c. Most people are matchers. Fairness, equality, and reciprocity are core values to them. Over time, matchers will tend to SABOTAGE takers.

3. “Nice” or “personable” won't show you what someone is. Don't be fooled by a personable taker.

4. Our goals: Subdue the taker in us, grow PAST the matcher in us, and become the giver God creates in us.

5. How will we achieve our goals? Productive practice: REPEATEDLY doing it well.