

Are you willing to give your all?

By Kelly T. Dixon

Scripture: Mark 12:41-44

Once again it is a new year . . . what are you going to do about it? There are many ways to look at a new year's beginning. Some think of it as a time to make anew resolutions they just could not quite meet last year. Others think of it as a time to begin new resolutions. Either way we all have a time in which we ponder about what we are willing to do during the new year.

This year I have had a different outlook on what I have come to consider being my time of "new year pondering." In the past I would make my resolutions, which usually were broken before the end of January, then I would return to my old ways. This year I have decided to ponder what I gave to the Lord last year (spiritually, as well as, monetarily) and what I plan on giving to Him this year.

You might say - how pompous of me to think of "what I plan on giving to the Lord," but in reality that is exactly the point I want to bring out. The Lord is always knocking gently at our hearts and waiting like a gentleman for us to let Him come in and take care of our lives. Am I willing to let Him do that or not? OR do I just want to go on with my own self will and really screw everything up? So it is a choice as to what I plan on doing. The Lord has already set out the path for His plan. The question is am I willing to take the path He has so graciously laid out before me.

Are you in this same situation? Are you not giving your all to the Lord? In Mark 12:41-44 Jesus observes a widow woman giving her all and He uses her as an example for us to follow. The verses state:

"⁴¹Jesus 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. ⁴²But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a fraction of a penny. ⁴³Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. ⁴⁴They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything--all she had to live on."

The widow woman gave her all . . . it wasn't much, but it was her all. Jesus only refers to the amount of money she gave as a way of showing it was her all. He did not care about the actual amount of money she gave, but used it to tell the disciples that it was more than all the others had put in the treasury. What did Jesus mean by this? I believe Jesus was referring to the woman's ministry, NOT the amount of money she put in for the offering. If we consider this one woman's ministry then we can see exactly what Jesus meant. This one woman is usually referred to down through the generations when we think of tithing. How many times have you yourself given more or give period because of the qualities Jesus pointed out in this widow? How many times have you strived to be just like the widow and give it all? Jesus is telling us still today that not only did the widow give her all, but what she gave was priceless.

I want to be like the widow. I want to give my all to the Lord. I want generation after generation to reflect upon what I have given to the Lord during my life and want to give more themselves. And finally, I want the Lord, my Saviour, to tell me at the end not only, "Job well done my child." but "Job well done my child, it was priceless."

(Continued on page 2)

Are You Willing to Give Your All (continued . . .)

Are you willing to give your all to the Lord today? Do you FULLY know Him as your personal Saviour? If so, have you committed your whole life to Him? I hope you will strive with me through this year and the ones to follow to give your all to the Lord our Saviour. After all, His Will is there waiting for you, it's your choice, choose His Will.

Dear Lord,

I want to commit my all to you. Please give me the wisdom to know Your Will, the understanding to perform Your Will, the strength to endure as I perform Your Will, and the perseverance to see Your Will through. Let me be a beacon for You that my life, like the widow, will reflect Your priceless love to all. In Your most precious Name I pray. Amen