

2 Kings 12:9

Then Jehoiada the priest took a chest, bored a hole in its lid, and set it beside the altar, on the right side as one comes into the house of the LORD; and the priests who kept the door put there all the money brought into the house of the LORD.

If you read today's devotional verse it may sound a little familiar. You may be thinking, "Where have I heard of people putting money into a box at the temple?"

† **Luke 21:1-4** *And He looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the treasury, and He saw also a certain poor widow putting in two mites. So He said, "Truly I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all; for all these out of their abundance have put in offerings for God, but she out of her poverty put in all the livelihood that she had."*

I love reading this story, because each time I do, I can only think that this poor widow did not go home starving. I believe the Lord honored her gift and blessed her because of it.

But reading today's devotional verse we learn that this chest was originally done so that the temple would be maintained.

† **2 Kings 12:4-8 (NLT2)** *One day King Joash said to the priests, "Collect all the money brought as a sacred offering to the LORD's Temple, whether it is a regular assessment, a payment of vows, or a voluntary gift. Let the priests take some of that money to pay for whatever repairs are needed at the Temple." But by the twenty-third year of Joash's reign, the priests still had not repaired the Temple. So King Joash called for Jehoiada and the other priests and asked them, "Why haven't you repaired the Temple? Don't use any more money for your own needs. From now on, it must all be spent on Temple repairs." So the priests agreed not to accept any more money from the people, and they also agreed to let others take responsibility for repairing the Temple.*

Yet the people had turned it into a "look at me" session where some would even have trumpets blown so everyone would stop and see how much they were giving, and people would think how wonderful this guy was for giving that amount. But Jesus exposed their hearts to others by saying, *for all these out of their abundance have put in offerings for God, but she out of her poverty put in all the livelihood that she had.*

I have actually seen videos, where in some churches, they make a big deal out of tithing. They stop and play music and people will not just walk, but have this elaborate dance they do, going down the aisle at church as they drop their money into the offering box or plate up front by the podium for all to see.

Jesus has a response to that as well:

† **Matthew 6:16** *Moreover, when you fast, do not be like the hypocrites, with a sad countenance. For they disfigure their faces that they may appear to men to be fasting. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward.*

These people will say that they were dancing before the Lord because they are tithing. But Jesus said, ***“But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing”*** **Matthew 6:3** So in their supposedly being joyful in the Lord, they are also being disobedient to the Lord by making a show out of what they are doing, by giving.

It's not wrong to dance before the Lord with joy because of what He has done or given to you. But are you dancing before the Lord at home where no one but the Lord can see you, or are you waiting to make a show out of it so that everyone will stop and think how great you are, and not how Great God is?

So we need to be cautious in our giving and doing for those in need. Or, are you posting on social media pictures of what “you” have done so others can see what a great person “you” are. Or are you telling all your family and friends and coworkers what you have given or done? No matter what it is you are doing, if you are doing it to be seen by man so they will think how cool and what a great Christian or person you are, then ***Assuredly, I say to you***, that you ***have*** your ***reward***.

Jesus says to all of us:

† **Matthew 6:1-4** *Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in heaven. Therefore, when you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory from men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly.*