



Sermon
Rev. Lang Yang

“Received More Than Others”

25th Sunday after Pentecost
St. Michael’s Lutheran Church
11-11-18

Grace, mercy, and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen

Mark 12:43 *“Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, “I tell you the truth, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others.”* This is the Word of God’ (Cross reference – Mark 12:42, 44, John 8:20, 2 Corinthians 8:12)

Illustration: “Giving” (Show picture of St. Francis de Sales take off shoes to the poor)



St. Francis de Sales is a Romans Catholic priest. He is a Bishop, Confessor, Doctor of the Church and tertiary of the Order of Minims. Once St. Frances was on his way to worship he saw a poor men on the side of the road with no shoes. St. Francis took off his shoe and gave it to the poor man. (Giving cloak)



February 14, 1208, during the worship services at St. Mary of the Angels, St. Francis heard Jesus word of sending the disciples to preach about God’s Kingdom. Jesus said, *“Do not take a purse or bag or sandals;”* (Luke 10:4) The disciple task was to preach the Good News of repentant and the Kingdom of God is near. After the services, St. Francis realize that God’s Word was spoken to him directly. When he came out of the church he saw a person without a coat, he took off his coat and gave it to the person. (Unam Sanctam) (Show shoe given to a young girl)



A man was poor and with little what others give him and he turn around and give it to others. One day he received a new pair of shoes and while walking on the street he saw a young girl without any shoes and more poorer than he was. He took off his shoes and gave it to her. (Show one million dollars check)



There was once a ladies who started to work at a very young age and only completed 6th grade. Each paycheck that she received, she deposit a small amount to the bank. When she turn 80 year old, the bank called her and asked to see what she should do with her money if she die? She asked her bank, “How much do I have in my account?” With a big smile, the bank manager reply, “You have one million dollar.” She donated the fund to a university to help others that they will have a chance to get the education that she did not have. She did not asked to be recognize or praise but because of her generosity, she set an example so that others may receive.

- I. Our Gospel lesson today talked about the widow who was very poor but still brought her 2 coin to the temple offering. Comparing the value of the coin for today money is only worth ½ of a penny. (Show the widow offering)



After hearing the value of the coin, most people will say, “This ladies is so poor, she should not give it to the offering and save it for herself so that she may buy food for her. You can also imagine that the people at the temple court complain of how little she put in the offering. Today we sit next to our neighbor and may make the same comments in regard to others people. If you are one of those people, are you truly give it all your heart or you only give the left over to God?
 (Show thinking about money)

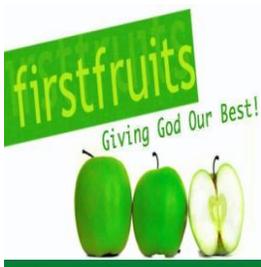


Many time when people want to give money to the church to do God’s work, people always hesitant. For example, some people at first initial want to give \$100.00 and by the time they get to church, they only give \$10 or \$5. People tend to be hesitant and only give the least and the left over to God.
 (Show Christmas presents)



November is here and most women will think to see how much they will be spending on gift for Christmas for all the people that they know? Most men will think to see how much they will spend on their wife and children? Again, most people think that it is better to give a gift to others, so that they can be your friend and in return they will love you more. When you think all the gift that you will be spending, you rather save your money for the physical things of the world instead of giving for the expansion of Christ’s Kingdom. To that end, you only give what is left over to God instead of the first fruit of your crop.

II. Brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus. (Show first fruits)



God’s Word in Nehemiah said, “We also assume responsibility for bringing to the house of the LORD each year the **first fruits** of our crops and of every **fruit tree**.” (Nehemiah 10:35) God’s word teaches us that we are to remember his grace, mercy, and love and return our first fruits back to God. So how do you apply this to your life? God’s Word taught us that we are to bring our first fruit. It mean that if you work and received a pay check you are to give a amount that your heart is cheerful to give it back to God. In the old day, if you don’t have money, you can give your lives stock (sheep, goat, cow, or others for the temple treasury)

or if you are a farmer then bring some of your crop to the temple. In the United States we don’t actually give livestock or crop to the church but the Churches in Asia still practice today as a way of giving back to God. (Show picture of money, Bible and God love a cheerful giver)



Some of you will say, “Pastor, I have bills to pay and many others debt.” I’m understand. But God’s word taught us that whether you give \$1.00 or \$100.00, He love a cheerful giver. God’s word say, “Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for **God loves a cheerful giver**.” (2 Corinthians 9:7) Let us watch a one minutes video about Jesus teaches about the widow’s mite. (Show video clip – Jesus Teaches about the Widow's Mites – 59 sec)



Jesus Teaches about the Widow's Mites - YouTube - .59 Sec.wmv

(Show the women given all that she had)



Brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus, it doesn't matter how poor you are and when you give to God with your heart as a cheerful giver, God will bless you. This is why Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others." (Mark 12:43) When Jesus say that the poor widow put more into the treasury because she give it with a cheerful heart. Jesus also meant that she is bless and she received more than others that had more.

III. Money is not the only thing that you can give it back to God. How about the time and talent that he had given to each of you. Each of you have a different gift because each of you already received more than others. (Show Mother Teresa)



Take Mother Teresa for example. She spend 26 years in Calcutta, India serving the poor, sick, hungry, and clothes those that need to be care for. She's using her gift to help others. She didn't expect to be recognized or place her in any position so that people can praise her. But because of her love in Jesus Christ and know that she have received more than others because Christ die for her sin. During Christ time on this earth, Christ love the poor, heal the sick, feed the hungry, and raise the dead. Mother Teresa simply imitating Christ love for others. (Show steak & burnt meat)



In our life, God first gives us everything and if we truly understand His grace, He called us to faith in His Son Jesus Christ. When you understand that you have conquer sin, death and the devil because of your faith in Jesus. You understand that you have received more than others. If you understand His gift to you, what are your gift back to Him? If you

bought a steak for \$20.00 and they brought you a burnt chicken that not even worth \$1.00, how do you feel? You will feel upset, angry, and refuse to eat the chicken. It is similar with God. If we only bring the left over of offering to God and not the best, God will feel the same way you feel about the chicken.



(Show widows offering)

The story of the widow's mite will help you to remember that when you give to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, He love a cheerful giver. Whether you are poor or rich, remember to give your first fruit to God. God love us so much and He gave us His one and only Son to save us. When you understood this, you have received more than others. You have received life because of your faith in Jesus. You have receive more than others whether you live or die because you have eternal life with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ forever and ever. Amen

Now may the peace of God which passes all understanding keep your heart and mind in Christ Jesus. Amen.