



From the Desk of Father Peter

What does the Bible Say About Giving?

The Widow's Offering

There are at least three important things about giving in this story of the widow's offering:

God values our offerings differently than man does.

In God's eyes, the value of the offering is not determined by the amount of the offering. The text says that the wealthy gave large amounts, but the widow's offering was of much higher value because she gave all that she had. It was a costly sacrifice. Note that Jesus did not say she put in more than any of the others; he said she put in more than all the others.

Our attitude in giving is important to God.

The text says Jesus "watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury." Jesus observed the people as



they gave their offerings, and he watches today as we give. If we give to be

*seen by men or with a stingy heart toward God, our offering loses its value. Jesus is more interested and impressed by **how** we give than **what** we give. We see this same principle in the story of Cain and Abel. God evaluated Cain and Abel's offerings. Abel's offering was pleasing in God's eyes, but he rejected Cain's. Rather than giving to God out of thankfulness and worship, Cain may have presented his offering with evil or selfish intent. Maybe he had hoped to receive special recognition. Regardless, Cain knew the right thing to do, but he didn't do it. God even gave Cain an opportunity to make things right, but he chose not to.*

*This illustrates again that God watches **what** and **how** we give. God not only cares about the quality of our gifts to him,*



May God Bless Us All,

Fr. Peter Enyan-Boadu

but also the attitude in our hearts as we offer them.

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