

Milk & Honey

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Spiritual Food and Encouragement for Believers in the Lord Jesus Christ

The Two Mites

C. H. Mackintosh

And Jesus sat over against the treasury and beheld how the people cast money into the treasury; and many that were rich cast in much. And there came a certain poor widow, and she threw in two mites, which make a farthing. Mk. 12:41

How little did these people know whose eye was watching them as they cast in their offerings! How little did they think of being scanned by One whose eye could penetrate the deepest depths of their hearts and read the motives that actuated them in what they were doing. It may be the showy Pharisee was there, displaying his wealth and making a pompous exhibition of his religiousness. Perhaps, too, the cold formalist was there, dropping in heartless routine, his stereotyped coin into the treasury. Jesus saw it all, weighed it all, judged it all.

It is well to think on this on every occasion in the which we are called to contribute to the Lord's cause. Well to remember, as the box or the basket is placed in my hand, that "Jesus is sitting over against the treasury." His holy eye rests, not upon the purse, but upon the heart. He weighs not the amount, but the motive. If the heart is right, the amount will be right, according to His judgment. Where the heart beats to His Person, the hand will be open to His cause. All who really love Christ will count it their high and happy privilege to deny themselves in order to contribute to His cause. It is most marvelous that He should condescend to ask us so to do. Yet He does so and it should be our deep joy to respond "according as God has prospered us," ever remembering that He loves a cheerful giver because that is precisely what He is Himself, blessed be His holy Name!

However, the point on which we specially want to dwell in Mark 12 is the act of the poor widow. Amid the crowd of contributors who pressed forward to cast their offerings into the treasury, there was one who particularly engaged the attention of our blessed Lord. "There came a certain poor widow and she threw in two mites, which make a farthing."

Now, that was a very small amount indeed if looked at from a monetary point of view. But think of the offerer. She was a "widow" — a "poor widow," the very impersonation of all that is desolate, helpless and lonely. A widow always gives us the idea of one deprived of every earthly stay and natural prop. "She that is a widow indeed, and desolate,

trusts in God, and continues in supplications and prayers, night and day."

True, there are many so-called widows who are not of this stamp at all — many who look anything but lonely and desolate. But these are quite abnormal. They are entirely outside the sphere of true widowhood. The Holy Spirit has furnished us with a striking photograph of this class in 1 Timothy 5:11-13.

But the poor widow at the treasury belonged to the class of true widows. She was one according to the mind of Christ. "And He called to Him His disciples, and says to them, Verily I say to you, That this poor widow has cast more in than all they which have cast into the treasury. For all they did cast in of their abundance, but she of her want did cast in all that she had, even all her living."

Doubtless, had these been the days of the public press, the princely offerings of the wealthy would have been paraded in the columns of some newspaper with flattering allusion to their large amount, while the poor widow and her offering would have been passed over in contemptuous silence.

But our adorable Lord thought differently. The poor widow's two mites outweighed in His balance all the offerings put together. It is a comparatively easy thing to give tens, hundreds and thousands from our accumulated treasures, but it is not easy to deny self of a single luxury or comfort, to say nothing of a positive necessity. But she gave all her living to the house of her God. It was this which threw her into such moral kindredness of spirit with the blessed Lord Himself. He could say, "The zeal of Thy house has eaten Me up." And she could say, "The zeal of Thy house has eaten up my living." Thus she was very near to Him. What a privilege!

Reader, did you ever notice the shape in which she had her living? Why does the Spirit take such care to say "Two mites, which make a farthing?" Why not be content to say, "She threw in a farthing?" Ah! this would never do. It would not have bought out the real point of exquisite beauty, the true touch of wholehearted devotedness. If she had had it all in one piece, she must have either given all or nothing. Having it in two, she had the option of keeping half for her own living. And truly most of us would judge it extraordinary devotedness to give to the Lord's cause half of all we possessed in the world. But this poor widow had a whole heart for God. This was the point. There was no reserve whatever. Self and its interests were wholly lost sight of and she flung her whole living into that which to her heart represented the cause of her God. May God grant us something of this spirit! *

The Truth of Headship

Steve Hulshizer

(Excerpt from the book by the same title)

God is never the author of confusion or disorder (1 Cor. 14:33). He never establishes a situation, or condition where disorder exists. On the contrary, He always establishes peace, and the government, or order of authority necessary to maintain it. Even within the Divine Godhead there is an order of authority. Scripture speaks of the Father “sending” the Son (John 12:49; 17:23), and of the Father giving the promise of the Holy Spirit to the Son, Who in turn “sent” the Holy Spirit (John 16:7; Acts 2:33). It also speaks of the Son obeying the Father (John 12:49-50; 17:4; Heb. 10:7, 9). The presence of an order of authority does not imply the superiority of the Father, or the inferiority of the Son or the Spirit with regard to their Person, for they are all equally God. *Position*, not *Person*, is in view when we speak of government. Now within the Divine Godhead there is the perfect order of government which allows the three *distinct, coequal, and divine* Persons of the eternal Godhead to function in absolute perfect harmony. This perfect harmony is the result of the presence of *loving authority and willing submission*. This perfect order of government always produces harmony, and never produces disorder. Never!

Loving Authority + Willing Submission = Peace & Blessing

We see this perfect order of government, or authority, practiced perfectly in the triune Godhead. No one Person of the Godhead ever functions independently of the others, or for selfish reasons (John 5:19; 16:13). There is complete satisfaction, and never a thought of seeking a different position. The Father loves the Son (Matt. 3:17), and the Son willingly submits to the Father’s will (Matt. 26:39; Phil. 2:5-8; Heb. 10:7). The Holy Spirit is willingly submissive to both the Father and the Son (Acts 2:33). This is a “living” harmony, not just a mechanical order. Three living, coequal, divine, and rational Persons, function in the absolutely perfect harmony of loving authority and willing submission. Such Divine harmony is worthy of our meditation and our worship!

This principle of *loving authority and willing submission* is taught in other portions of Scripture as well. Paul, speaking to husbands says, “love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself for it” (Eph. 5:25), and to wives he says, “submit yourselves unto your husbands, as unto the Lord” (Eph. 5:22; Tit. 2:4). If this order is followed the marriage cannot fail. It is God’s perfect plan for order and blessing in a marriage. Men and women, in their

own wisdom, have altered this plan, and much disorder and accompanying sorrow has resulted (Prov. 9: 10).

Scripture also says, “Fathers, provoke not your children to wrath, but bring them up in the nurture (loving care) and admonition of the Lord” (Eph. 6:4). To children He writes, “obey your parents in the Lord” (Eph. 6:1) God’s Word to those in church leadership is, “Neither be ye lords over them,” but rather “feed the flock” (Ezek. 34:4; 1 Pet. 5:2-3). They are to care for the saints with the tender loving care of a shepherd. To the saints He says, “Obey those who have the rule over you (Heb. 13:17). Employers and employees are also to function by this principle (Col. 4:1; 3:22). Loving authority and willing submission working together in harmony always results in order and blessing. Nowhere is this more evident than in the willing submission of God’s Son to the loving authority of His Father (John 17:4, 21, 26).

Now in whatever God creates He establishes an order of authority, or government. Whether it be in the angelic hosts, in the lights of heaven, in the inner man, in marriage, or in the church, God establishes government, or order of authority to maintain order and produce blessing.

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the Jews will make an effort to conquer the land of Palestine for themselves.

The stage is being set. The curtain may go up at any time. Every Christian may be taken away from the world before tomorrow’s sun arises, and everything would be in readiness for the last act of the times of the Gentiles. The darkest days that this world has ever had are just before us.

I would commend to my fellow-Christians the serious words of the apostle Paul, found in 1 Cor. 7:29-31: *But this I say, brethren, the time is short; it remaineth, that both they that have wives be as though they had none; and they that weep, as though they wept not; and they that rejoice, as though they rejoiced not; and they that buy, as though they possessed not; and they that use this world, as not abusing it; for the fashion of this world passeth away. **

The Times of the Gentiles

Harry Ironside

And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations; and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled (Lk. 21:24).

The term, "times of the Gentiles," is only found once in the Word of God, and that is in Luke 21 where our Lord Jesus Christ Himself so designates the entire period during which the children of Israel are wanderers among the nations, and Jerusalem and the land of Palestine are trodden town by Gentile feet. This expression "times of the Gentiles" covers a period of time that has now reached to something like 2500 years. It is symbolized in the great metal image as seen by Nebuchadnezzar in his dream, related in Daniel 2, and in another form by the prophet in his vision, related in chapter 7. It embraces all the ages since God permitted Nebuchadnezzar to assume world-wide dominion, and delivered His people into his hands as a punishment for their persistent idolatry. From that day to the present Jerusalem has been dominated by Gentile powers.

Already everything is being prepared for the solemn events of the time of the end, the brief period of judgment which is to follow the rapture of the Church, the period in which the judgments predicted in the third part of the book of Revelation will be poured out upon this earth. In order to lead up to this it will be necessary to carry your minds back to the previous acts of this great drama.

Act One... *the beasts of the field and the fowls of the heaven hath he given into thine hand, and hath made thee ruler over them all. Thou art this head of gold (Dan. 2:38).*

When the curtain is rung up, we find Nebuchadnezzar, the "head of gold," and his Babylonian army overrunning the land of Palestine, and finally battering at the gates of Jerusalem. Thousands of the wretched people of Judah are carried in chains to the very land from Abraham, at God's command, separated himself, and went forth "not knowing whither." For seventy years the captive Israelites were embittered by hard bondage.

Act Two. *And after thee shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee.. (Dan. 2:39).* When the curtain rises again, the Medes and Persians are in the ascendancy. This is the silver part of the image. Babylon has fallen and under the milder rule of the Persians, a remnant of the Jews were permitted to return to the land of Palestine. There they rebuilt the temple and the city of Jerusalem was restored, but never on the same scale of magnificence as in the days of old. For almost a century and a half a measure of liberty is enjoyed.

Act Three... *and another third kingdom of brass, which shall bear rule over all the earth (Dan. 2:39).*

When the curtain rises again, we see Alexander the Great, after having united the states of Greece, crossing over from Europe, intent upon avenging the Hellenic states. Alexander is clearly the "he-goat" from the west who rushes with choler upon the Medo-Persian ram with two horns, and overthrows completely the authority of the Persians. After his death his great empire is divided into four parts, and for about two hundred years the descendants of four of his generals partition the world among them. During the long period Palestine is almost continually a scene of war and conflict.

Act Four. *And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron; forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all things; and as iron that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise (Dan. 2:40).*

As we open our New Testaments, we see the curtain rising on the Roman empire. In Luke 2:1 we read that "there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed". Every country in the known world was under the sway of the great iron kingdom. The Roman empire was in the ascendancy when our Lord Jesus Christ was born. This fourth act ended when the Lord Jesus died on the cross. For these past 1900 years people have been living as it were *between the acts*.

Act Five. *And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever (Dan. 2:44).*

The fifth act will begin when the Lord Jesus descends from heaven with a shout to receive His church. When this act begins, you find the city of Jerusalem in the center of the stage once more, and the Jews are gathered back to the land of Palestine. I think we may say that God is preparing all this at the present moment. The curtain is still down, but the stage is set. It is surely God who has brought Jerusalem to the front. Recent events, in connection with Palestine and the Jews, tell us with unerring certainty that the coming of the Lord draweth nigh. At the time of the end, Jerusalem is not only to be the center of the stage, but the land of Palestine is to be a battleground for the greatest conflict the world has ever known.

In the West there will arise a ten-kingdomed confederation in the territory of the old Roman empire, thus reviving it in a new form and acknowledging the ruler of one of these kingdoms as sovereign of the western world. This head of the western confederation will make a league with the head of the Jewish nation guaranteeing to protect them in their land if any enemies come against them. Then the enemies of

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We want to thank each one who supported Spread The Word by prayer and financial gifts. Many encouraging and helpful gifts were given to STW and commended workers. Many of the gifts came on the last day of the year. Slightly over \$125,000 was distributed to commended workers and assembly related ministries in North America. We were able to minister \$20,000 from the general fund to assembly camps and ministries involved in the distribution of the Gospel. STW also had opportunity to minister to two assemblies damaged by hurricanes. Your gifts have enabled STW to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and to provide spiritual food for the Lord's people around the world.

Approximately 5,700 copies per month of *Milk & Honey* were sent primarily to the USA and Canada, but also to a number of different countries. Also by way of email we now send *Milk & Honey* to an increasing number of saints around the world. A very large number of Gospel tracts and teaching booklets were distributed free-of charge, many going into prisons. Your gifts have also supported the York Bible Study Program, and the Shepherding Conference held at Greenwood Hills (**Lord willing, the next Shepherding Conference will be held 9/20-22/2018**).

We do hold emergency funds for unforeseen needs, such as; assemblies and camps suffering damage due to storms, unforeseen needs among the Lord's people, equipment and/or software replacement, etc.

We pray that in 2018 the ministries of Spread The Word through the publishing and distribution of Gospel tracts, teaching booklets, and *Milk & Honey* will be used of the Lord to reach individuals with the Gospel of Christ, and to strengthen, encourage, and challenge His people. *

Faith

Faith is not just believing that God can keep the promises of His word, but it is knowing that He will keep His promises. It is to be fully convinced that He will do what He has said He will do. *

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