

The Committee on Christian Stewardship and Tithing

151st Session of the Tennessee Annual Conference

Bishop Jeffrey N. Leath, Presiding Prelate. Dr. Susan J. Leath, Supervisor of Missions

The Presiding Elders Reverend Sidney F. Bryant (Host P.E. SND), Reverend Alexander Gatson, (ND), Reverend Troy Merritt, Sr. (NAD).

The Reverend Sharon Ogilvie, Host Pastor.

Wayman Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church, Host Church Family.

“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” Mark 12: 42 KJV

The Committee on Christian Stewardship and Tithing would like to make its report to the 151st Session of the Tennessee Annual Conference. There are many teachings by our Master on giving. This committee would like to focus on Mark 12: 42. This is a familiar text too many; however, we would not want to take for granted what Jesus appeared to be after by teaching us.

Our Jesus in the text first teaches us that He is watching how we give alms to assist the poor. Our Lord Jesus takes notice of what we contribute to charitable uses; whether we give liberally or sparingly; whether cheerfully or with reluctance and ill-will. But know that He looks at the heart; he observes what principles we act upon, and what our views are, in giving alms; and whether we do it as unto the Lord, or only to be seen of men.

Charity begins at home; or, if she would give it, why did she not give it to some poor body that she knew? What occasion was there for her bringing it to the *treasury* to be disposed of by the chief priests, who, we have reason to fear, were partial in the getting rid of it? It is so rare a thing to find any that would not blame this widow, that we cannot expect to find any that will imitate her; and yet our Savior commends her, and we are sure that she did very well and wisely.

That *giving alms*, is an excellent good thing, and highly pleasing to the Lord Jesus; and if we are humble and sincere in it, he will graciously accept it, though in some circumstances there may not be all the discretion in the world. Those that have but a *little*, ought to give alms out of *their little*. Those that live by their labor, from hand to mouth, must *give to those that need*.

Public charities should be encouraged, for they bring upon a blessing; and though there may be some mismanagement of them, yet that is not a good reason why we should not bring in our *quota* to them. Though we can give but a *little* in charity, yet if it be according to our ability, and be given with an upright heart, it shall be accepted of Christ, who requires *according to what a man has, and not according to what he has not*; two mites will bring in as much praise and worship through our giving and brought to account, if given in a right manner.

It is much to the praise of charity, when we give not only *to our power*, but *beyond our power*, as the Philippian churches, whose *deep poverty abounded to the riches of their liberality*. When we can cheerfully provide for others, out of our own necessary provision.

It is therefore the recommendation of this committee that incorporate into our worship the truth and all that we give we give cheerfully. Knowing that Jesus is watching and aware.

Humbly submitted, The Committee of Christian Stewardship and Tithing: Reverends Anthony Thomas, Vivian Canty, Frederick Jenkins and Anthony Lyle, Sr. Sisters Linda Bailey, Linda Faye Bentley, Allie DaShields, Carol Greenlee, Margaret Jarrett, Geraldine Keesee, Beverley McCadden, JoAnn Millon, Wanda Morris and Bonita Stewart