

# CHRISTIAN MONEY \$ENSE

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## There Is Never Too Little To Give

*Chris Rudolph, CPA*

Have you ever felt like your giving is too little to matter to God? I used to rationalize my giving when I was going through high school and college. I thought, "God might understand if I don't give because I make so little." From talking with people now and seeing studies about it, there appears to be others in this state of thought - if it is only a little bit, I don't need to give it to God.

This, however, is incorrect thinking about giving. No one should feel like he has too little to give. That includes those in grade school, high school, and college students as well as people who are out of work or living on a small fixed income. I know when you are in these situations you do not have much, but still God wants you to give. Did not Jesus make His disciples notice the widow who gave two small coins? (Mark 12:41-44) This is the only biblical record we have of someone's actual giving, and it was only two small coins!

Jesus even explains why he did this at the end of the passage. He said, "For they all put in out of their surplus, but she, out of her poverty, put in all she owned, all she had to live on." (Mark 12:44, NASB) The little that the widow gave was more significant to her than the surplus put in by others. This is the case when you have little: what you give affects you much more than those who earn a large amount. This, however, is a reason to give when you have little, in that God understands the sacrifice this is and shows in this passage that He notices especially these sacrifices.

I hope this will encourage you. First, you can rejoice when you give to God out of poverty or tough financial situations. Some of you may make just enough money to make ends meet. Maybe your employer cut your hours because of the slowing economy or you might have even been laid off. Maybe your only income is through your retirement fund, which is not doing so well because of the weakening financial market. It is difficult to rejoice in

situations like these - when our faith is tested. However, we can rejoice when we give because it shows God that we are putting Him first. God is pleased by our faith.

Second, giving is a lesson that should be taught at an early age, even with the little that children possess. Proverbs 22:6 says, "Train up a child in the way he should go, even when he is old he will not depart from it." (NASB) When I was in elementary school, I was given an allowance of two dollars every week for doing my chores around the house. It was not a sizeable amount of money, but it was at least something to use to buy toys and candy. It was also the first time I was taught about the priority of giving to God. I remember setting aside a quarter every week for the offering plate because my parents encouraged me to do this. It was a good beginning lesson in giving to God's work. Sometimes there were temptations for me to not put my quarter in the offering plate because there was a toy that I was saving up for, but I was continually encouraged to give to God. So I did. It was never forced on me, but this encouragement and training helped to form my habit of giving today. I was encouraged also to hear lately that one of the teens in my youth group was giving out of habit now rather than having his parents tell him to. Giving is a lesson that needs to be taught at an early age so that this habit can form when a child only has a little.

There is no offering too small for God. From His Word, it seems like these are the ones that He cherishes the most.

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BBC Foundation has been ministering to churches and individuals regarding biblical stewardship since 1992. Send your questions on finances and stewardship to: BBC Foundation, 538 Venard Rd., Clarks Summit, PA 18411. Phone: (800) 451-8668, website: [bbcfoundation.org](http://bbcfoundation.org); e-mail: [info@bbcfoundation.org](mailto:info@bbcfoundation.org)