

Sermon ~ Sunday, October 24, 2021, by Pastor Dwight Benoit

Text: Mark 12: 41-44; Genesis 32: 29c

Title: "I'm Blessed!"

Mark 12: 41-44 ~ KJV

-- "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.
-- And **HE** called *unto* **HIM HIS** disciples, and said unto them, *Verily I say unto you, That this poor widow hath 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."*

Genesis 32: 29c ~ KJV

-- "And **HE** blessed him there."

"I'm Blessed!"

This morning, I'm inspired by the words of the Late, Pastor Clay Evans, who sung,

"I'm Blessed!" Truly *Blessed!*

(I got my health and I've got my strength, *Thank GOD, Thank GOD, "I'm Blessed!"*)

(I had a place to sleep last night)

"I'm Blessed!", *wondrously Blessed!* I want complain, **"I'm Blessed!"**

If you want to see a *Miracle*, all you gotta do is (just look at me)!

I've *been Blessed*, I've been kept by *Goodness* and *Mercy*; right now, I've got *Victory!*

So, before you start to complain, count your *Blessing*, you'll be amazed!

I won't complain (I won't complain), **"I'm Blessed!"**

Our *text* from Mark's Account of **JESUS, The CHRIST**, points out *our LORD'S* last public act before **HE** is arrest and then Crucified... According to Matthew, chapter 23, **JESUS** had just completed a series of "7 Woes": *exclamations*, of **HIS grief** over *Jewish Leadership*... [the Phar-i-sees, they *believed* the Torah (first 5 Books of **The BIBLE**, and *the Resurrection*) and, the Sadd-u-cees, they *believed* the Torah (first 5 Books of **The BIBLE**, but not in the *Resurrection*) ... they, these *Leaders*, *grieved JESUS*, so **HE** gave these "Woes" ...

1. As *Leaders*, you *hinder* others from entering The **KINGdom** of Heaven. Point: these *Leaders*, had problems *with JESUS—The Only Way* into Heaven. (Matthew 23: 13)
2. As *Leaders*, you *convert* people away from **GOD**, to be like yourselves. (Matthew 23: 15)
3. As *Leaders*, you are '*stuck on self*,' and blindly lead **GOD'S people** to follow man-made *traditions*, instead of **GOD'S WORD**. (Matthew 23: 16-22)
4. As *Leaders*, you involve yourselves in every last detail (*tithes*), but you ignore what's *most important: Justice, Mercy* and *Faith/Faithfulness* to **GOD**. (Matthew 23: 23, 24)
5. As *Leaders*, you keep up your *appearance* before people, while in your *private* worlds, you're corrupt. (Matthew 23: 25, 26)
6. As *Leaders*, you *act spiritual* to cover up your *sin*. (Matthew 23: 27, 28)
7. As *Leaders*, you *pretend* to have learned from *past History*, but your *behaviors* show, you've learned *nothing*. (Matthew 23: 29-36)

JESUS is not 'mean,' but *Honest, True* and **HE** speaks 'in time,' before Judgment!
HE is **JESUS**! "And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call **HIS Name JESUS**:
for **HE** shall save **HIS** people from their *sin(s)*." (Matthew 1: 21)

In this *text*, see the Place: "And **JESUS** sat over against the Treasury..."

The Court of the Women; the *east* entrance and most accessible area into the Temple.

This is as far as a Woman could go in **The HOLY Place**.

Note also, the Performance: **JESUS** took time to observe how the people *gave*...

HE watched them; **HE** noticed the consistent way, in which they *gave*; **HE** viewed their preconceived, made-up minds, settled thoughts, as to *what* they would give. Because they did almost the same thing every time, they came to *give*!

Point: **The LORD** is observing *HOW* you *give*!!!

[While you are *hooking* and *crooking*, **GOD** is *Looking* and *Booking*, and it will come up...]

JESUS observed them [their *attitudes/mannerism*] as they approached 'I' or the '13' *Bronze, Trumpet-shaped receptacles*: 9 for the '*required Gifts*' (*Tithes*) and 4 for '*Free-will Offerings*,' (Feeding of the Homeless, **G.R.A.C.E.**, Education, Disaster Management, Foreign Mission)

Note, the Production: "Many that were rich cast in much."

[Well, they ought to have! You have *more*, you are entrusted with *more*; you're positioned to receive *more*—you ought to *give much*!] But "*much*" of the rich is *not* always "*much*" in **GOD'S Sight**!

Point: **JESUS** observes, focus', not so much on "*WHAT*" you *give*, but "**HOW**" you *give*...

[Hypocrites *give* and **JESUS' followers** *give*!]

"A *poor, no* named, *widow; no* family, *no* wealth, *poor—no* excuses, *no* social security, *no* pension, *no* governmental welfare... She *gave* "two mites" – *small, less than little* compared to the rich and *much*... She *gave* "of her want" (v. 44b) ... *Notice JESUS saw "HOW" she gave—"she wanted"* ... and **JESUS** *saw* it! She *gave* in *Faith*... Her *focus*, her *trust*, Her *hope*...

And **JESUS** *saw* it and said, "This *poor* widow hath cast more in then all they which hath cast into the treasury." *She was Blessed!!!*

Genesis *text*, 32: 29, "**HE** blessed him there." **HE** ["a man," vs. 24; a 'theophany':

visible manifestation of **GOD**,' in **The Person of JESUS CHRIST**, a **Pre-Incarnate** appearance of **CHRIST** (Genesis 32: 30); "him," – **Jacob**, the twin of his elder brother Esau; *grabber* of the heel, the *deceiver*—he *grabbed* his brother *birthright/blessings*, the *trickster* who was also *tricked* by his uncle Laban. Here in the *text*, **Jacob**, by the Jordan River, *grabs* on to **JESUS**, and would not let go... "**HE** blessed him there."

*What was the Blessing in that place?

-**Jacob** was *saved* from a great *peril*—Esau's attack. "Oh **LORD**, please rescue me from my brother, Esau. I am afraid that he is coming to kill me, along with my wives and children! (Genesis 32: 11) "**HE** blessed him there."

-**Jacob** was '*forgiven*' a great wrong. Lesson learned, "security does not lie in the accumulation of things, but when **GOD** *forgives* you... when your brother *forgives* you, when you *forgive* you..." "**HE** blessed him there."

-Jacob was able to feel that *a great breach was healed*. “Esau ran to meet him, and embraced him, and fell on his neck, and kissed him; and they wept.” (Genesis 33: 4)
“**HE** blessed him there.”

* What was The Place:

--Place of *great trial*. Jacob sent *messengers* to his brother Esau, but Esau sent *no message* back... Jacobs messengers said, Esau had 400 armed men with him. Jacob is *burdened* and *worrying* what shall I do? (Genesis 32: 6, 7) “**HE** blessed him there.”

--Place of *humble confession*. Jacob *prays* to **GOD**, “I am not worthy of the least of all the *mercies*, and of all the *truth*, which thou hast showed to thy servant.” (Genesis 32: 10)
“**HE** blessed him there.”

--Place of *Pleading*. “As Jacob and his household started on their way again, **Angels of GOD** came to meet him.” (Genesis 32: 1) In *prayer*, Jacob said to **GOD**, “**YOU** promised to treat me kindly and to multiply my descendants until they become as numerous as the sands along the seashore—to many to count.” (Genesis 32: 12) “And Jacob was left alone; and there *wrestled a man* with him until the breaking of the day.” (Genesis 32: 24) “**HE** blessed him there.”

*Is there Other Such Places?

--At **The Cross**, on **The Hill called Calvary**... At **the Tomb**... At **The Throne of JESUS**
[**HE** is pleading for you and me, right now!] “**HE** blessed him there.”

--At *Conversion*. When **JESUS** *helps* you understand, **HE** was there all the time... **HE** did not have to find you (me)... **HE** was there all the time—I was *lost*, I was *blind*—**HE** was there all the time—But now, I’m found, now I see... “**HE** blessed him there.”

--In times of *stripping*, times of *humbling*, times of *chastening*, times of *pleading*, times of *repenting*, times of *obedience*--“**HE** blessed him there.”

“I’m Blessed!”