



THE BROOKSVILLE BULLETIN

Brooksville church of Christ
604 W. Fort Dade Avenue, Brooksville, FL

July 3, 2022

The Rich And The Widow **(Kent Heaton)**

Jesus taught many lessons to His disciples by teaching them to watch people and learn from their actions and attitudes. Sitting in the Temple, Jesus observed different people who lived at opposite ends of the economic scale. “Now Jesus sat opposite the treasury and saw how the people put money into the treasury. And many who were rich put in much. Then one poor widow came and threw in two mites, which make a quadrans. So He called His disciples to Himself and said to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all those who have given to the treasury; for they all put in out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all that she had, her whole livelihood” (Mark 12:41-44; see also Luke 21:1-4).

The rich had an abundance of wealth to put into the treasury. God

had blessed them with the bounty of increase, and they showed their love for Him by returning their bounty to the Lord. In this story, Jesus was not condemning the rich for giving so much but rather making a lesson of contrast.



The widow had so little to give to the Lord, yet she was willing to give all she had. God notices the small people! He knows those struggling daily and sees their hearts still trusting and serving Him. While men are judged by their philanthropy, God examines the character of all men from the heart (1 Samuel 16:7).

Turn the camera back a few hours when the widow left her home. It was not a grand palace of luxury where servants waited on the master and food was plentiful. She did not wear nice clothes nor enjoy the benefits of comfort like the rich. Her husband died, which may have led to much of her poverty.



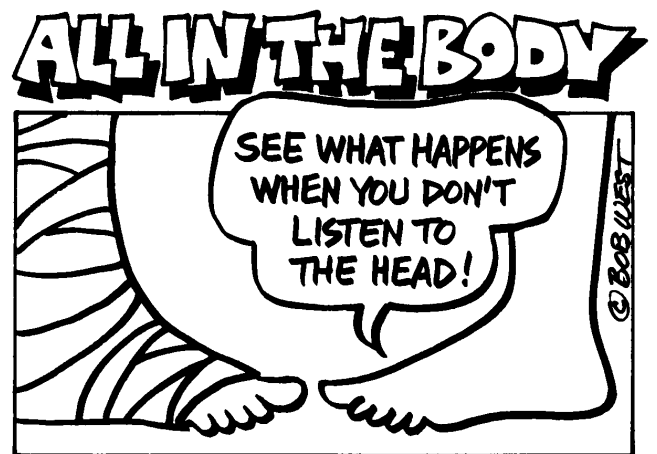
Bread was scarce in her home, and she knew the gnawing pains of hunger all too well. As she prepared to go to the Temple, she gathered what she had (two mites) and began walking to the Temple. No one would give her notice. No one would give her help. Entering the Temple, she would be overlooked in the crowd. Approaching the place of the treasury, her two mites would hardly make a sound on the heap of riches left by those before her. But God saw her.

She did not notice the man sitting off to the side watching her. As she left the Temple, she would return to her home of poverty to scrape out another meal, some oil for the lamp, and hope that hunger would not be as severe as before. Most likely, in a future time, when she could find two mites again, she would journey to the Temple to give glory to God by her sacrificial offering. She loved God.

She loved to show what small amount of gratitude she could muster for the God she served. Her two mites were all she had, but the Lord was all she needed. A contrast of characters – the rich and their abundance and the widow in her poverty.

The widow knew dependence on God. Her small gift was all she could do, but she did all she could do. Jesus picked her out of the crowd and preserved her story through the ages to remind us the measure of a man is not on the amount of his gift but on the gift of the heart shown by a widow.

Like Lazarus, who lay at the gate of the rich man (Luke 16:19-31), her circumstance was dire, but her love for the Lord was not. Even in her poverty, she trusted in God and depended on God. Her greatest blessing and reward came when angels carried her to the bosom of Abraham. Our greatest blessing is knowing the widow's lesson and knowing God cares for me.



Wings Like a Dove (James W. Adams)

David in despair over the oppression and hate of his enemies once prayed to God, “Oh that I had wings like a dove for then would I fly away, and be at rest” (Psalm 55:6).

Elijah made the same mistake when he fled from the wrath of

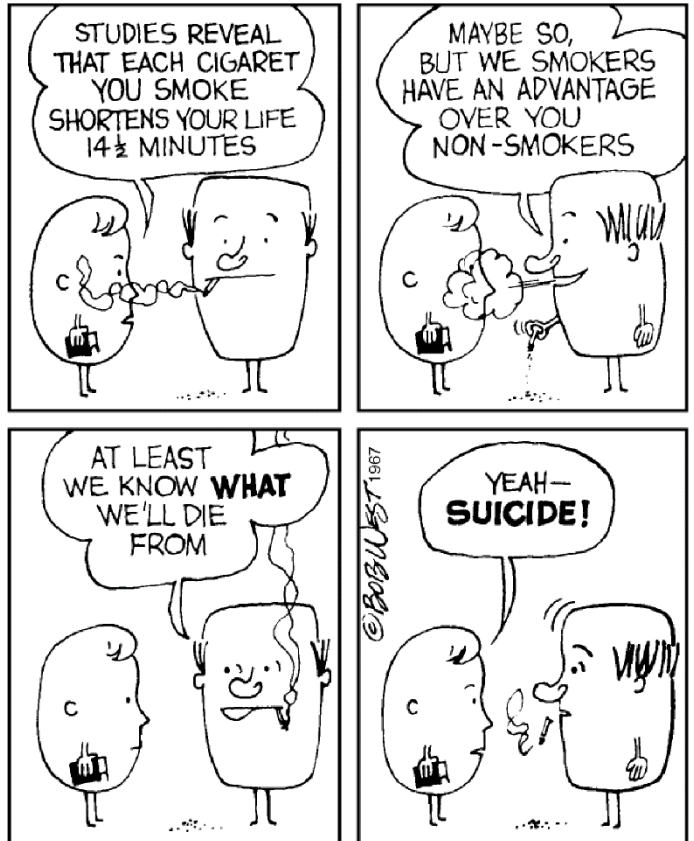
Jezebel. Supposing that he – and he, alone – stood against the evils of his day, he prayed, “O Lord, take away my life, for I am not better than my fathers” (1 Kings 19:4).

It is not too difficult to serve God when conditions about us are favorable to such services. The real test of our faith, loyalty, and devotion come when circumstances are inimical to serving the Lord. Too many of us in the day of trouble, like David and Elijah, desire to have “wings like a dove that we might fly away and be at rest.” There has never been a day among the churches of the Lord, in the memories of those now living, when the cause of Christ more desperately needed true soldiers of the cross of Christ than now!

Our problems, many though they may be, cannot be solved if we pine for “wings like the dove that we might fly away and be at rest.” So long as the cause of Truth has an enemy, the true soldier of the cross of Christ cannot REST. Taking refuge in discouragement, defeatism, and isolationism will give no man of conscience rest. The Lord provided no piece of armor for the back of the Christian soldier (see Ephesians 6:13-20). He contemplated no situation in which it would be proper or in harmony with His will for soldiers to turn their backs and run. Our only hope for “rest” is to rise in the strength of Israel’s God and “fight the good fight of faith.”

THEOPHILUS

The Smoking Advantage



Location (Dee Bowman)

It’s important in religion, as in life, to make sure of present location. Some of us are not where we think we are. The fog has clouded our vision, the wind has blown us off course, or our own inattention has resulted in our not being careful of our whereabouts. The fog is prejudice, preconceived notions, and things like that. They always tend to throw us off course because they keep us from having a clear view of things.

The wind has to do with controversy, the presence of bad weather. It is a natural thing to want us to be right, but when there is controversy, we tend to let our minds be so affected by the pressures of the wind that we are driven toward what we want to

believe rather than making careful, clear examinations of our assertions.

We better watch out for the winds of controversy; they will blow us off course. And inattention to where we are is always a problem. One thing is certain; we are not standing still. Nobody can coast to heaven. Everybody is headed in some direction, and that direction is always determined by his attention to his present position. Now – I need to get rid of the we and make all of the above I's, for it is I who need the advice.



The Cross (Selected)

There is a nomadic people in the Sahara Desert known as the Tuareg. The Tuareg cross is their symbol. It is not a typical looking cross because it is diamond-shaped with four projections coming from each point. It is not a Christian symbol because these people are Muslim.

Strangely, historians and anthropologists are unsure of its origin and why it is so important to the Tuareg people. Simply stated, its meaning has been lost.

Today, the beautiful symmetry and design of crosses in jewelry and art can cause the meaning of the cross to be skewed. May we as Christians make certain the cross never loses its true and eternal meaning.

I used to say that civilization was going to the dogs, but I have quit saying that out of respect for dogs. Today, mankind is guilty of some things beneath the dignity of any dog. (Vance Havner)

Brooksville Church of Christ

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Times of Services

Sunday Bible Class for all ages (10:00am)

Sunday Worship all Welcome (11:00am & 6:00pm)

Wednesday Bible Class for all ages (7:00pm)

Supporting the GOSPEL in other places:

☞ Jamey Hinds, Hollywood, Florida; Roy Fenner, Panama City, Florida

☞ Zeke Flores, Columbus, Texas; Philip North, Branson, Missouri

☞ The saints in Nicaragua

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