James 29

Are you motivated by the flesh or the SPIRIT?

Pick it back up in the gospel of Mark chapter 12 were we left off.

In our current study of James, we are noting James 1:9 -10, which is truly a lesson on the problem of pettiness and religious lies as well as status in the plan of God.

We are looking at a very interesting lesson on how Jesus views the religious crowd.

As well as how people assume what is holiness and who should be elevated over others.

He just warned HIS disciples beware of the legalistic leaders and those who put on pomp and circumstance to be admired.

In verse 40 HE warns that they rob the unsuspecting person, such as the widows.

Because of their position and what they present – Jesus states clearly; *These will receive a greater condemnation:* Jesus presented the idea of a greater condemnation.

HE is clearly saying, that some will receive a worse judgment and a worse condemnation than others.

There are a handful of Bible Scriptures that suggest that there may be harsher forms of misery or judgement for some people in the end.

Perhaps the Lake of Fire will have levels within it, or degrees of everlasting condemnation.

Now notice where Jesus places HIMSELF and HIS apostles;

/Mar 12:41 And ***Jesus* sat down opposite the treasury, and *began* watching** how the people were putting money into the treasury; and many **rich people were putting in large amounts**.

Our Lord was extremely strategic in HIS timing and lessons – His humanity was perfect; therefore, this was done for their benefit as well as our benefit thousands of years later.\

This was an open display. So, we do not have a private basket being sent around which is what the apostles began doing, so that no one can determine who gives what.

Giving is to be a private matter between the Bel and God.

This would have been a type of box on a stand where there was probably a line formed as an offering for the Sanhedrin.

Jesus was impressing a lesson on all of us, how man sees things and how GOD sees things.

In seeing how the people gave, Jesus wasn’t studying technique or even the issue of wealth or poverty. Our LORD was looking at and teaching more about motives of the heart.

REPEAT

[/Mar 12:42](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/mar/12/42/s_969042) And a poor widow came and put in **two lepta coins**, which amount to a **quadrans**.

*lepton* – was called a mite, a small thin coin usually made of brass.

*Kodrantēs -* a Latin term, meaning 1% of a denarius. Which a full denarius would cover a day of cheap labor.\

LEPT-ON, KA-DARN-TRES

The question is …what are you motivated by?

/This was like throwing a dollar in the offering basket. Notice she is a widow which immediately tells us she already had a life of struggling. Unless you had a very wealthy family or a wealthy husband, the widows of the ancient world had a very difficult lifestyle. The emphasis on these two coins is very powerful, she could have kept one for herself and yet she did not.\

This should not be misinterpreted that you give the church all your money, until you are broke, it simply displayed the woman’s true heart.

It is a lesson on motivation in the soul.

[Mar 12:43](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/mar/12/43/s_969043) Calling His disciples to Him, He said to them, “Truly I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all the contributors to the treasury;

This is what I mean when I remind you that everything is not what it seems.

Many people were probably impressed by the affluent folks who gave from their abundance.

God looks at the heart.

[/Mar 12:44](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/mar/12/44/s_969044) 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.”**

The widow’s gift shows us that the value of a gift is determined by what it costs the giver. This is what made the widow’s gift so valuable. Jesus did not want anyone to give to HIS ministry and neglect their own basic needs.\

Don’t miss the lesson…and do not allow any greedy pastor to attempt to force you to give beyond your own means.

The lesson is seen within the soul structure – that which we truly believe, and that which we truly desire is shown in not only words but our actions and lifestyle choices.

REPEAT

/ The principle here shows us that before God, the spirit of giving determines the value of the gift more than the amount. God doesn’t want us grudgingly giving money or being put into shame or a guilt offering. God does not need your money – it was HIS in the first place! God loves the cheerful giver.

2Cor 9:7 Each one *must do* just as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.\

Scriptures like – Jeremiah 27, Psa chapter 8 or Psa 50:10, tell us that GOD owns everything, HE created everything.

It is our privilege to give to Him, and we need to give because it is good for us, not because it is good for God.

King David gives us a great example of the attitude in giving to GOD, we can see this in 2Samuel chapter 24;

/2Sam 24:24 However, the king said to Araunah, “No, but I will certainly buy *it* from you for a price; for **I will not offer burnt offerings to the LORD my God that cost me nothing.**” So David bought the threshing floor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver.\

King David had been tempted by Satan into arrogantly counting all of God’s people – this census was done from a place of pride. (1Chron 21:1)

Now God brought some discipline upon King David and the land.

/[2Sa 24:25](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2sa/24/25/s_291025) Then David built there an altar to the LORD, and **he offered burnt offerings and peace offerings**. And the LORD responded to prayer for the land, and **the plague was withdrawn from Israel.**

David failed several times yet he always had a heart for GOD. Even in discipline, David adjusted himself to the justice of God and the plan of God.\

David was almost always content in whatever circumstance he was in, he always tried to rest in God’s power within his life.

The few times David allowed his arrogance or doubts and lust patterns to get ahead of him; he still kept a heart that genuinely pursued GOD.

REPEAT

We have to learn this skill set of true contentment in relation to what most people call happiness.

When you do, pettiness, greed and unrealistic expectations dissipate over time.

/Psa 128:2 When **you eat the fruit of the labor of your hands,** **You will be happy** and it will go well for you.

*'ešer-* used twice here, a self-contained happiness, to be blessed, to be humbled in spirit and relaxed, in praise or worship for all GOD has given you.\

ES-YEAR – was used to highlight God’s blessings, to be happy with a contentment, a peace and inner joy.

Happiness is the awareness that whatever our current status is, it can be viewed as highly satisfactory.

No matter what you are dealing with - being in a favorable or advantageous circumstances, or in difficulties and challenges it is all related to the what you have built in your soul.

REPEAT

Consistent occupation with Christ produces divine happiness.

Even in adversity we are told to remain steadfast – meaning having a certain level of contentment, even if it feels uncomfortable for a while;

/1Pet 3:14 But even **if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, you [are blessed**. AND DO NOT FEAR THEIR INTIMIDATION, AND DO NOT BE IN DREAD,

Everyone is rocked back on their heels at the strike of adversity – it matters in the time directly afterward, what you choose to do.\

Therefore, everything you have learned here recently, about the Grace Apparatus of the soul and the Edification Complex of the Soul - should become a reality at some point in your Christian -walk.

Occupation with Christ happens as we grow into SM. That means at that point, divine happiness is stabilized and not fleeting in your soul.

/1Pet 4:12 Beloved, **do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you**, which comes upon you **for your testing**, as though *something* strange were happening to you; 13 but to the degree that **you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing**, so that at the revelation of His glory you may also rejoice and be overjoyed.\

There is a good reason, that doctrinal ministries emphasize the power of GOD the HS and the very mind of Jesus Christ – the WORD!

/Prov 3:13 **Blessed is a person who finds wisdom,** And one who **obtains understanding**. 14 For her profit is better than the profit of silver, And her produce better than gold.

Prov 8:33 “**Listen to instruction** and be wise, And **do not neglect** *it.*\

Let us close by looking at our next lesson in this series – go to Luke chapter 18 RF.

DivineHappiness is related to a clear conscience — it is related to adjusting to God’s plan and HIS justice system. It is related to obedience in faith to the words and commands of GOD.

Therefore, the four Divine Institutions can help bring forth contentment.

/Rom 14:22 **The faith which you have, have as your own conviction before God**. Happy is the one who does not condemn himself in what he approves.

Prov 29:18 Where there is no vision, the people are unrestrained, But **happy is one who keeps the Law**.\

We will take a look at the parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector.

Let us read thru a few scriptures in closing and we will back here in the next message.

/Luk 18:9 Now He also told this parable to some **people who trusted in themselves that they were righteous**, and **viewed others with contempt**:

The Pharisees generally rejected Jesus, whereas many of the tax collectors responded positively to Jesus. They were at opposite ends of the social and spiritual scales in Judaism.\

The contrast is immense – it leaves no room for doubt! Two separate classes of people, who were either accepted and praised, or rejected and loathed by the Jews.

This is very similar to what our anchor study of James chapter one verses -9 & 10 was addressing.

[Luk 18:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/luk/18/10/s_991010) “Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector.

[Luk 18:11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/luk/18/11/s_991011) “The Pharisee stood and *began* praying this in regard to himself: ‘God, I thank You that I am not like other people: swindlers, crooked, adulterers, or even like this tax collector.

The majority of publicans (tax collectors) were engaged in shady practices, many in cahoots with Roman guards.

In some cases, they even worked secretly with members of the Sanhedrin to pocket some of the tax money.

This Pharisee has no idea if this man is truly corrupt or not – arrogance assumes it is always in the right and others are wrong.

/It is possible to address your words to God, but actually be praying to yourself, because your focus is on yourself, not on God. Your thoughts are directed at your agenda, not God’s. Your attitude is my will be done and not GOD’s will be done. The Pharisee was full of pseudo-praise, he actually rejoiced in self not what GOD was doing and God’s power and plan.\

[Luk 18:12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/luk/18/12/s_991012) ‘I fast twice a week; I pay tithes of all that I get.’

Now we see the works program….deeds of the flesh, not divine good.

[Luk 18:13](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/luk/18/13/s_991013) “But the tax collector, standing some distance away, was even unwilling to raise his eyes toward heaven, but was beating his chest, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, the sinner!’

What truly motivates you is what GOD observes.

[Luk 18:14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/luk/18/14/s_991014) “I tell you, this man went to his house justified rather than the other one; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”