

Intro: Jenn started her tattoo “kick” about 15 When? “When you can sign for it...and pay for it...I’m not doing either!”
Of course...18th birthday...Comes home...dad I got a tattoo. Want to see it? Easy answer: NOPE! Weeks...month or more
That started a routine for us: Get a tattoo...want to see it? NOPE Finally show it...I would fuss, she would laugh and ignore

Remember the third or fourth one: “Dad...want to see my new tattoo’s? NOPE. These are awesome...Birds...behind ear...
Finally had enough: “Why would you do something like that? What possible reason would you? “Remind me...”

Lu 12:6 “Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten by God.”

That is what Mark is reminding us of in Mark 12:41ff: Jesus Sees and Loves Everyone
Continue in our series, Learning To Love Like Jesus: Loving The Seemingly Insignificant

Mark 12:41-44

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1. God Sees:

Vs 41

WE don’t always think that He does...and we don’t always act as if he does...But God sees

And, He sees things that we don’t even think about

- What we think of as insignificant:

Everyone else sees what they think is important:

Rich men, Large Offering, Large amounts of money

Jesus sees something entirely different

Widows Mite: Not even that: He sees her HEART!

The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.” 1 Sam 16:7

- What we think is hidden:

Nothing is hidden

Heb 4:13 Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

- What we think is overlooked or ignored

(There was probably no one else who would pay attention to what she was doing that day)

Poor, Old, Not much to offer

Rahab Genesis 16:14 Hagar and Ishmael “The God who sees me”

Appl: God sees what you do...Positive

~Every act of service

~Every act of kindness

~Every soft, gently word

~Every testimony...

God sees what happening to you...Negative

~Feel abandoned and alone

~Stuck in desert...dry...empty...

~Heartbroken and hurt

~Betrayed and broken

Job 34:21 "His eyes are on the ways of men; he sees their every step.

2. God Sees Everything!

VS 41

Notice the way this is phrased...very important: Jesus is observing in a very different way than everyone else.

Vs 41: He sat across from the from the treasury and watched HOW the people gave.

Don’t miss that! Jesus wasn’t looking at WHAT they gave! He was looking at HOW they gave!

Very significant point. Mark is very explicit...

He doesn’t just look at the surface...He looks below to what is going on underneath!

1 Sam 16:7

“The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.”

- Sees What: (Physical)

Copper Vs Brass

She gave about 2/7 of one Brass coin: They gave many brass coins!

He isn’t confused...He KNOWS exactly what each gave

- Sees State and Situation: (emotional)

Rich Vs Poor (Took into account what each had to work with)

God ALWAYS deals with us from reality...Not some unrealistic ideal

He knew what they each started with...and what they finished with!

- Sees Motives: (spiritual)

Sacrifice Vs Spectacle

Appl: God knows Where you Are, What is Going On, and the Motive of your heart!

That is true of financial giving...and of every other thing that you do in service to Him

That’s why over in 2 Cor 8 when Paul is talking about giving...

~Calls it grace (which was gracious?)

~Generosity (which was generous?)

~Self (which gave more of themselves?)

~Sacrifice (which sacrificed most?)

This is so fundamental to the Christian life: Doesn’t matter WHAT you are talking about!

- Finances

- Service

- Time

3. God Sees Differently!

God has an entirely different value system than we do!

His values are almost always opposite of ours!

Everyone else in the temple that day thought...WOW! What amazing gifts those people brought!

Jesus said...Look...Don't miss it...What an incredible gift she brought to the Lord!

Because he Sees and Values Differently

- Amount of Sacrifice instead of Amount of Gift
- Size of Heart more than Size of Gift
- Motive for Giving
 - ~Sincere?
 - ~Willingness?

CONCLUSION:

Sometimes we feel like we don't have what it takes to serve God and make a difference...

- I'm not as smart
- I'm not as educated
- I'm as trained
- I'm not as equipped
- I'm not as wealthy
- I'm not as powerful
- I'm not as influential

None of that matters!

Because serving God...Making an impact on your world...

It is all about the heart!

1 Cor 1:25-31

For the foolishness of God is wiser than man's wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man's strength.

Brothers, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth.

But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.

He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things-- and the things that are not-- to nullify the things that are,

so that no one may boast before him.

It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God-- that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption.

Therefore, as it is written: "Let him who boasts boast in the Lord."

At Riva Trace Baptist Church we are entering a new season. God's Spirit is starting to work in power.

We are seeing people lives be changed, families restored, and hearts healed

There is a place at that table for everyone who wants to be used by God.

All you need...Is a willing heart...

If that is you...encourage you...make yourself available

In the words of Isaiah the prophet...God here I am...send me

Like Samuel said when the Lord was seeking him...Speak Lord...Your servant is listening

When you hear...Respond...Obey...Act