

# Point Group Notes

Message from 2/4/24

Acts 5 – Ananias & Sapphira

## Getting to know you...

1. *Honestly*, if you were at a sporting event, and you caught a ball or puck that ended up in the stands, do you keep it? Or do you give it to the kid that tried to catch it but just wasn't fast enough? *Remember – you must be HONEST.*
2. Why are you generous? Is it because you feel “called” is it because you want other people to see your generosity? Is it a guilt thing? Explain...
3. Have you ever been in a situation where “everyone” was giving and being generous, but you didn't really feel like it? What did you do? How did it make you feel? (i.e., workplace collections, Salvation Army bell ringer, panhandler at an intersection...)

## Digging Deeper

Acts 5:1-11 shows how genuine giving comes from the heart. Ananias and Sapphira tried to deceive by giving only part of their wealth but claiming it was everything. Their dishonesty led to severe consequences. True generosity is about *sincere sacrifice and generosity*, not selfish motives or *recognition*. This story teaches us how giving should look and what happens when we allow Satan to wiggle his way into this area of our worship. Jesus directly addressed the issue of giving for recognition in the Gospel of Mark.

Mark 12:41-44

<sup>41</sup> And he sat down opposite the treasury and watched the people putting money into the offering box. Many rich people put in large sums. <sup>42</sup> And a poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which make a penny.<sup>43</sup> And he called his disciples to him and said to them, “Truly, I say to you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the offering box. <sup>44</sup> For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.”



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1. While reading the passage, use the space below to note the listed characteristics and details of the “Rich”, the “Widow”, the gifts, and Jesus. Discuss what you’ve noticed with your group.
2. Jesus praises this widow’s offering as a good example of sincere giving. How does Jesus praising the small gift challenge our ideas surrounding gift-giving?
3. In summary, what is Jesus teaching his disciples about giving?
4. Looking at this passage, who do you think the “rich men” thought would judge their gifts? How about the widow?

## Taking it Home...

1. Using this passage as a template, how should we determine how much/what we should give?
2. It’s easy to look at this passage and commit to giving a little more and make sure we give anonymously. But this passage is about so much more than anonymous giving. That being said, what must you do to give more like the widow and less like the rich men?
3. God is looking for a cheerful giver. Someone giving out of a genuine desire to faithfully trust and please the Lord. How can your point group pray for you as you seek to grow in this area?

