

# Connecting to God through Giving

HHBC \* Pastor John Mark Simmons \* July 31, 2022

## Three Widows who Trusted God

### 1. The Widow of Zarephath – 860 BC (1 Kings 17:7-14)

This story tells us . . .

- The Widow was a believer in the true God
- She had serious financial needs
- She was asked to give away a big part of the little she had
- She heard God's promise to provide for her if she gave
- She believed God's promise and first gave obediently to God
- God show His care by providing for her needs miraculously

### 2. The Widow and Jesus at the temple – 30 AD (Mark 12:41-44)

*"Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. <sup>42</sup>But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a fraction of a penny. <sup>43</sup>Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. <sup>44</sup>They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything--all she had to live on."*

- We are never too poor to give
- Giving generously means trusting God for the future
- God is honored by our degree of sacrifice, not the amount
- Giving is worship that expresses our relationship to God

### 3. The Widow and God's business (1990's)

# Giving connects us with God personally

## 1. Giving establishes our \_\_\_\_\_ before God

*"So the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with great terror and with miraculous signs and wonders. <sup>9</sup>He brought us to this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey; <sup>10</sup> and now I bring the Firstfruits of the soil that you, O LORD, have given me." Place the basket before the LORD your God and bow down before him." Deuteronomy 26:8-10*

## 2. Giving is \_\_\_\_\_

*"The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it." Psalm 24:1*

*"Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the Firstfruits of all your crops." Proverbs 3:9*

*"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Mt. 6:21*

→ Kābēd = \_\_\_\_\_

## 3. Giving expresses our \_\_\_\_\_ in God

*"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it." - Malachi 3:10*