

## WINNING THE BATTLE IN YOUR MIND: ENOUGH

Scripture used: [Mark 12:42-43 \(NIV\)](#)

### OVERVIEW

Pastor Hurmon kicked us off with recognizing veterans for their service, and showing a video with all the heartfelt thank-yous from all the communities we have helped in the past 2-3 years. He called us to do the same this Christmas with our Be Rich to Others campaign.

This is the last week of the “Winning the Battle in Your Mind” series. Next week, we start a new series: “Love is a verb.”

Our Scripture today tells the story of the poor widow who put two copper coins in the offering urn. Jesus calls her out as having put more into the temple treasury than all the others, some of whom were very wealthy and gave large gifts. She gave everything, all she had. Her faithfulness merited a special affirmation from Jesus Himself, that when we bring our all or our best, that it is always enough from God, even if we feel inadequate in comparison to others.

### KEY POINTS

- 1) Enough is when we are feeling sufficient, adequate. As Pastor Hurmon was preparing a dedication for his team, he wanted to show them how much he values what they do every day. In the same way, Jesus sees and honors the work we're doing. He applauds our efforts to do our best every day, and the assurance we have is that God sees us, God values us, and we are enough on our good days and our bad days, if we are bringing our best to God, even if it feels like it's not sufficient to others' expectations or even our own expectations.
- 2) The notion of *not enough* can stimulate us. It can drive us to do more and work harder. But the same construct can bog us down, discourage us, and trap us. Even those who are at the pinnacle of their profession (PH used the example of Steph Curry) can so easily feel inadequate and insufficient sometimes. This can erase any positive feelings about one's craft, one's skill and performance. That's when we need to refocus and ask: who am I serving, and what am I pursuing?
- 3) The woman in the passage today had three reasons to be invisible: she was poor, a woman in a patriarchal culture, and a widow. Yet Jesus cared for her deeply. He valued what she offered, how she engaged. He looked at her with a different perspective, and with favor. He could really see she was doing her best. The widow's gift was not only enough, it was plenty.
- 4) Consider [Mark 12:44](#). My all may not be the best, but it is my best. Yes, we will have doubts; we will feel the weight of comparison and criticism, whether from ourselves or from others – but giving our best to God is to be celebrated. In his fight against Goliath, David gave his best. The little boy who enabled Jesus to feed the multitude from a few loaves of bread and some fish did his best. We have to dedicate our little bit – and it multiplies and becomes plenty. We must remember that as we go about our daily lives: our jobs, kids, education, service.

### DISCUSSION

- 1) **HEAR** - At what moments in your life have you felt like your best was “plenty” or “enough”? If that feeling was based on performance and achievement, how do you feel about the stability of that foundation? What are the situations that made you feel like your best wasn't enough? Does having our value and sense of “enough” as something that comes from God change the reference point away from our circumstances?
- 2) **UNDERSTAND** - Consider [Mark 12:42-43 \(NIV\)](#). Examine this account from the perspective of each person that Jesus describes. How would you feel about this account if you were a wealthier person who had given a larger sum? How do you think the widow felt when she made her offering? How many of the bystanders do you think shared Jesus' perspective? If you had to adapt this account into today's world, and maybe into a context different from giving financially (which is now rarely in public, at least at our church) what would be a modern day example of this teaching?
- 3) **DO** - Commit to this prayer this week: God, today I offer to you my all. As you pray this prayer, reflect on God's affirmation that when we bring our best, it is always enough. And consider what robs us of our peace. What are the names of the voices in your life or mind that tend to never be satisfied with your all?