



GENEROUS LIVING

ALL OF ME
IN RESPONSE TO ALL OF HIM

APRIL

“**A**s Jesus looked up, he saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury. He also saw a poor widow put in her two mites. “Truly I tell you,” he said, “this poor widow has put in more than all the others. All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on.” (Luke 21:1-4)

Perhaps one of the greatest reports of generosity and love in the Bible is the story of the widow and her last two mites. She put all she had in the temple treasury and dedicated it to God. She gave her last two mites instead of buying food. If she had reacted to her financial straits in fear, rather than faith, she would have robbed herself and the world of Christ’s commendation of a powerful example of generosity that has been retold through the years.

In the book *Live Stewardship... Live Happy*, John Mathews, Director of NAD Stewardship Ministries, calls the widow’s act “reckless” and says it is a rare event. The widow literally flung her life willingly into God’s hands, without fear. The widow’s action is an example of the Christ-like principles of attitude, responsibility, sacrifice, commitment and action. How many of us really understand and grasp

these principles? Jesus gave everything for us, what are we willing to give for Him?

Our pattern for giving and for living must be Jesus. We must dedicate our entire selves and all we have—time, talents, physical assets, mind, heart, and monetary blessings—to God for His use. When we focus on Jesus, instead of ourselves, we move self from the center of our lives. We decrease self and increase Jesus in our lives. We then begin to give generously. In the words of John Mathews, “Returning God’s tithe isn’t giving, but it’s stealing to keep it.” Giving goes beyond the 10% tithe.

The poor widow deprived herself of food in order to give. She did it in faith and without fear, believing that her heavenly Father would not overlook her great need.

How can we not respond to the gift Jesus gave us?

It is **All of Us in Response to All of Him.**

— Adapted from a *Generous Living Team Worship* given by Gary Moyer, Executive Secretary, Carolina Conference of Seventh-day Adventists



TELL YOUR STORY

You are part of the Carolina Conference Generous Living Team and we want to hear from you. If you have a testimony where God has been especially faithful to you or your family, please share it with us at rroberts@carolinasda.org or write to us at:

Generous Living Team
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Your testimony could be crucial in someone's life through our videos, posters, offertory readings or bulletin inserts.

Thank you for your continuous prayers.

“For I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD. “They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.” Jeremiah 29:11

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