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## **Sermon im Evening Prayer am 8. Februar 2026, in der Unterneustädter Kirche Kassel über Lukas 21,1-4**

*„As Jesus looked up, he saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury. He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. ‘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)

### I.

In our world, it seems that all revolves around money. Some people have a lot of it. Others, on the other hand, are constantly short of money. We all need money to buy the essentials for staying alive and trying to enjoy the life that God has blessed us with. Nobody can live without money. Money comes in different denominations in the form of coins and notes from cultures all over the world.

You can do many things with money like save it, spend it, steal it, waste it or perhaps – you may be one of the lucky ones and have some left over. It is becoming increasingly common to pay cashless and that means doing more business without coins and notes.

This brings a question to my mind? Who among you has ever held a US dollar bill in his/her hand? Do you remember what's written on it? It is not just the value. Not just the origin either. Not just the picture of George Washington, the first president of the United States! You will find also a very important quote on it, too - a quote that I believe matters and I will use it in our sermon today! The quote is, *“In God we trust.”* And this is not about money! It is a bit surprising to find this quote on a banknote, don't you think?

However, there is hardly a better link to the little story that we heard in the scripture reading. Jesus is in the temple in Jerusalem. And he sees how rich people put their gifts in the offering box. A poor widow approaches. She's putting in two small copper coins. These are the smallest coins that existed at that time. For us, that would be two 1-cent coins. It is important to note that there are two coins. She gave everything that she had in the box. Really everything!

She could have kept a coin for herself. But she didn't save anything, absolutely nothing, for the next day. She did not worry about the future! She was able to give her last 2 coins because she trusted God completely and absolutely - with all her heart and soul.

When Jesus saw this, he said: "*Truly, I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them.*" (v 3) We know: Of course, that's not correct in terms of actual numbers. Most of those who put more into the offering box, probably had significantly more. But from the perspective of what one owned, it is true.

"[...] this poor widow has put in more than all of them." And Jesus goes on to explain what he meant: "For they all contributed of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on." (v 4) All the others who left the temple still had something left after their donation, some of them a great deal. But the widow had nothing left to live on. All we know about her life is that her husband was dead. So, after leaving the temple she must have been completely on her own.

## II.

Why would Jesus have told this particular story? And why do we still remember this woman today, who would have been long forgotten, if the Bible had not reported her deed? With her donation, the woman expresses that she is giving everything she has to God because she trusts him to provide for her as he promised! And that is real trust, that is deep, absolutely sincere trust. When I keep something back, then I will put my trust in it. However, when I have nothing left, I have no choice but to put my trust in God.

This story is so special as there are many people who have lost everything in their lives: their home, their property, their own health, a beloved person or animal. This is what is known as fateful – f-a-t-e-f-u-l. People who have these experiences did not choose these situations for themselves. But what the woman in our story did, was faithful – f-a-i-t-h-f-u-l. She made the decision on her own to trust God and to honor him with her last coins. This is a faithful act. Because it was done out of deep trust.

God is good. God is reliable. When we trust in God, it doesn't matter what we go through in this life, we can trust God to never leave us nor forsake us! The woman in this story was certain that she could trust that God would take care of her. This is the absolute trust that I hope that we can all learn from this woman – to place our trust in God and rest assured that we are in good hands!

"In God we trust." This quote speaks to me and encourages me to use money wisely, but under no circumstances, don't rely on it to save you. Money can never save you. Only God can save you. And he promised that those who put their trust in him that he would take care of all of our needs.

Psalm 55:23 says, *“Cast your burden on the lord, and he will sustain you; he will never permit the righteous to be moved.”* 1Petr 5:7 says, cast *“all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.”* Please remember that when we put our trust and faith in God, we are pleasing our Father! This is what he has commanded us to do.

Amen.