

A LIVING FAITH Lesson on UNSELFISHNESS

Theme: **Unselfishness** - "Jesus is more interested in what is in the heart of the giver than he is in the size of their gift."

Object: A small coin purse with \$0.50 in it

Scripture: Mark 12:35-44 (RSV or KJV)
Message Focus: Mark 12:43-44 *"Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on."* (RSV or KJV)



Paree Looy!

Each Sunday in our worship service we take an offering. Do you think Jesus is interested in how much money we put in the offering plate?

The Bible says that one day Jesus went to the temple and sat down near the place where the offerings were placed. He sat and watched the people as they came by and put in their offerings. Many rich people, dressed in fine robes, came by and put a lot of money in the offering plate. Then, a poor widow came by and put in two small copper coins that weren't even worth a penny.

Jesus called his disciples to him and said, "This woman has unselfishly given more than anyone. The others gave out of their wealth, but this woman gave all that she had." You see, Jesus is more interested in what is in the heart of the giver than he is in the size of their gift.

I have a small coin purse. Let's see how much money is in it. Hmm . . . 50 cents. Well, that isn't much money, but this morning I want to tell you the story of a little girl named Sosi and how her gift of 50 cents helped to build a great church.

One Sunday morning, the pastor of a church went outside to find a group of children who could not get in to the building in order to attend Sunday School. The small building was too crowded. One of those children was a 6-year old named Sosi. When the pastor saw her, he lifted her up in his arms, put her on his shoulder, and carried her into the building where he found a place for her to sit in the Sunday School class.

The next morning as he walked to church, the pastor saw Sosi again and stopped to talk to her. He told her that he hoped that some day the church would be able to build a new Sunday school building that was large enough so that there would be room for all the children who wanted to attend.

Two years later, little Sosi died and the pastor was asked to preach at the funeral service. After the service, Sosi's mother handed the pastor a small purse containing fifty-seven cents. She told him that Sosi had been saving her pennies to help the church build a new building for Sunday school. The pastor took the fifty-seven cents back to his church and told the people about the little girl who had been saving her pennies to help them build more Sunday school classrooms. The people were so inspired by Sosi's gift that they gave faithfully until a wonderful new building was built with plenty of room for all of the children to attend classes.

I am sure that Jesus would say that Sosi gave more than anyone to build the new Sunday school classrooms. She unselfishly gave all that she had.

Dear God, everything we have is a gift from you. Help us to remember that we should unselfishly give back to you with a cheerful heart. Amen.