

**November 26, 2023**

## Choose to Trust

by Rickie Jenkins

“It is better to be trusted than loved” (George MacDonald). I would say it is hard to love if we cannot trust. Trust is the foundation of any relationship.

Trust is not something that just happens. It happens deliberately. Trust is a by-product. It is a by-product of truth, honor and integrity. Trust is not something we set out to accomplish. It comes in beside who we are in our heart. It is seen by how we respond to others, by how we respond to circumstances, by what we say to others and about others. It comes because we have been transparent and sincere. It is built over time by consistency; consistently being genuine and doing what is right.

We all know what it is like to distrust someone. Distrust too, is a by-product. When someone lies to us, cheats us and deceives us there is no respect and no trust. When a person is “putting on airs” we can tell. We can tell when someone is disingenuous. We may say, “I always keep one hand on my back pocket when I am around him.” In others words, we know there is no trust.

If we boil it down, any relationship depends on trust. If there is no trust there will be no relationship. Trust is not something acquired, it must be earned. Developing trust is like constructing a building. It takes time and it must be done one piece at a time. It is much easier to tear down than build up.

Trust must first begin with me. Self-deception is an enemy of self and all relationships. Looking at ourselves honestly is essential to building trust. If I lie to myself I will lie to others and others will see it. In fact, they will see it before I do. It is not easy to take a hard look at ourselves. It is not easy to ask, “Am I being honest with myself. Am I being building trustworthy character? Do I keep my word? Do I follow through with the commitments I make?”

We have all been hurt at some time in our life. We have all been disappointed in one whom we placed our trust. Once we get burned it is hard to open ourselves to the possibility of being hurt again. So we put up self-protective devices. We build walls to protect ourselves. As a result we do not build relationships. We pull back. The person we hurt, however, is not the other one but our self. Once we close down we can become cynical, bitter and filled with hate. We may see it as protecting our self when in reality we are doing more harm.

No one will live long among other people without being hurt in some way. Trust is the casualty. Consider the alternative to isolating our self. As opposed to loneliness there will be companionship. As opposed to being loveless there will be mutuality. I get to choose to trust or not. Either way there is a price to pay. One builds, the other destroys. It is my choice.

## Welcome!

When you visit our assemblies, you will be received friendly, kindly and courteously. We believe this to be the natural attitude of those who truly love God and mankind. Though you may at first be among strangers, we hope that you will come to know us well and count us as your friends.

**We offer Bible studies as well as correspondence courses for those interested in learning more about what God expects of us.**

## Important Dates

**Ladies' Class** - Tuesday, November 28 at 10 a.m.

*If you know of upcoming events, please inform Darrell so they can be included here.*

# The Widow's Mite

By George Slover

"for they all put in out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all that she had, her whole livelihood." (Mark 12:44)

The story here recorded in Mark's gospel is one of the most heart-warming in all of Scripture. As Jesus watched the people putting money into the offering box, a poor widow was the one who gained his approval. We have a touching picture of a lonely widow whose heart was sad and her mean scanty, finding strength and consolation in contributing to the temple. Her remarkable action has become a model for disciples of Christ.

The objective amount was basically ignored by Jesus. He was not concerned with the sum, but with the sacrifice. This widow gave in all that she had, her whole livelihood. In contrast many rich people put in large sums, but made no real sacrifice. They gave out of abundance, but not out of want. The widow's gift was a heroic act of faith. It was a demonstration of how much the worship of God meant to her.

This widow's gift was approved because it was an offering full of love for God. She demonstrated her gratitude to God, and her utmost confidence in Him to provide the daily needs. Two mites were of little importance to the treasury, but of great importance to her.

It is a pleasure to give to those we love and value. A young girl gives up her career and fortune for the future of her husband and the spiritual well-being of her children. A father will find satisfaction in knowing he has given his best to his family even though he has worn out shoes. A brother or sister in Christ will stay up until late into the night to share the gospel with a lost soul or to lift the burden of a saint.

Too often we lose sight of the blessing

because the service is too burdensome and demands too much effort. Thus, we restrain from indulgence in Christ-like service. May we put into the treasury our wealth, talents, and prayers. None go unnoticed by God. Let us seek to have the spirit of this widow who knew God could do without the gift, but also knew that her heart could not be satisfied without her sacrifice.

## Prayer Requests

**Jack Wilson** is still struggling with pain and limited mobility.

**Jerry Richardson's** lymphoma has returned and is undergoing chemo.

**Dinah Williams** continues to have mobility issues.

**Don Simmons** is still struggling with his breathing; he is on oxygen at all times. **Alene** is having hip issues.

**Lisa Mullen (Darrell's sister)** is undergoing chemotherapy.

**Vicki Stevens** has cancer and is undergoing treatment.

**Debbie McMurray** is undergoing immunotherapy.

**Mike McMurray** is regaining strength.

**Terry Behrns** is recovering at his sister's home

**Harold Hammons** is back in Granite Mesa, room 308

*If you know of someone that needs to be on this list, please tell Darrell (email preferred) and provide updates so names stay on the list as long as needed.*

**"praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication.**

**To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making s application for all the saints," (Ephesians 6:18 ESV)**

The Oaks West church of Christ is a group of individual Christians who have been added to the Lord's body through baptism (Acts 2:38, 47; Gal 3:26, 27), and have joined themselves together (Acts 2:42ff) in an effort to do the Lord's will.

We are not a part of any larger organization - we do not follow any man-made creeds and we do not answer to anyone other than the Lord.

Our standard of faith and practice is the Word of God. We believe in the God of revelation (Eph 3:1-7; 2 Tim 3:16-17) and follow his instructions in an effort to have an ongoing relationship with him (1 John 4:7-11; 5:3).

Our times of study and worship are open to all, and our members are happy to meet with interested individuals or families for study.

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