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📍 January 18, 2019 - David Sullivan
📍 Cheerful Giving
📍 Luke 21:1-4; 2 Corinthians 9:7

The other day I had the dubious honor of having to renew my license. I had previously been able to renew it online but this time I had to go into the licensing office. While I can't say it was an unpleasant experience, I can't say it was a pleasant one, either. You see, I made an appointment, was received on time and expeditiously, but the individual that managed my renewal process was simply unavailable to me. She handled things quickly and in a perfunctory fashion. But while fast in her service, she never made eye contact with me, never smiled, and never called me by name. She simply performed her task and wanted me out of the way, so she could move on to the next task that stood between her and 5 o'clock.

We've talked a lot about giving. In fact, this series of devotions is being written to support a pledge campaign our church called Destination Next. We want to encourage you to play the part the LORD would have you play. We've talked about "honoring the LORD with your wealth" and "not equal gifts but equal sacrifice." But the LORD looks beyond all that; He always looks at the heart.

In Luke 21, Jesus witnesses a poor widow put two small copper coins into the temple treasury and Jesus 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.*" Over two millennia later, this small gift of two coins is a standing testimony to her going all-in, in this case giving all she had, to the LORD. You see it's not the size of the gift that matters, rather it's the condition of the heart that gives it.

2 Corinthians 9:7 says, "*Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*" So often we go through the routine of what we as "Christians" should do, often completing our daily check list of "Christian things" such as daily quiet time, church attendance, and even tithing. Let me encourage you to listen carefully over these next few days as we complete this campaign. The LORD will speak to you in a way only He can and will let you know your part. Then, He will honor your obedience as you give.

While I received prompt service at the driver's license office, it wasn't pleasant because it wasn't friendly. God loves a CHEERFUL giver. How about you? Does the LORD enjoy it when you give back to Him from what He has given you? Let's listen and joyfully give as we each purpose in our hearts to make the LORD smile.

