

Four Tithing Men: Easier for the Rich, Harder for the Poor

Do the Math

Consider the Words of the Lord Jesus about how He measures giving in two parallel passages:

*And a poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which amount to a cent. And calling His disciples to Him, He said to them, "Truly I say to you, **this poor widow put in more than all the contributors** to the treasury; for they all put in **out of their surplus**, but she, **out of her poverty**, put in all she owned, all she had to live on." Mark 12:42-44*

*And He looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the treasury. And He saw a certain poor widow putting in two small copper coins. And He said, "Truly I say to you, this poor widow **put in more than all of them**; for they all **out of their surplus** put into the offering; but she **out of her poverty** put in all that she had to live on." Luke 21:1-4*

The Lord Jesus draws a distinction between giving out of surplus or giving out of poverty. When we fail to draw this distinction, we might think erroneously that 10% of income is exactly the same burden for all. However, it is not the same burden. The burden becomes greater as poverty becomes greater.

A Comparison of 4 Tithing Men

The Third World Poor Man

\$100 per month income
Tithe: \$10 per month
Lives on \$90 per month
Tithing out of his poverty
Strongly impacted by tithing.

The Prosperous Man

\$10,000 per month income
Tithe: \$1,000 per month
Lives on \$9,000 per month
Tithing out of his surplus
Impacted very little by his tithing.

The North American Poor Man

\$1,000 per month income
Tithe: \$100 per month
Lives on \$900 per month
Tithing out of his poverty
Considerably impacted by tithing

The Rich Man

\$100,000 per month income
Tithe: \$10,000 per month
Lives on \$90,000 per month
Tithing out of his surplus
Not impacted by his tithing

The greater burden is upon the poor. This affects their capacity to buy food and basic necessities. They are tithing out of the money that they must

daily live on. As the income increases, the burden of tithing diminishes. The prosperous and rich are not affected in lifestyle by tithing. They have plenty to take care of food and basic necessities. They are giving out of their surplus while the poor man is giving out of that which would take care of his basic needs and his ability to deal with indebtedness. **The sacrifice is not equal.** The tithing doctrine puts unfair pressure on the poor and no pressure at all on the rich.

What must the Rich Man do in order to equal the sacrifice of the 3rd World Poor man in our example of tithing? The Rich man must give all away all his assets and all his income except for \$90 each month. Only then, have these two men borne the same burden and made the same sacrifice in giving. This unfair burden on the poor is another sure proof that the tithing doctrine is not from God.

Many poor people feel rejected by God, Christians and the Church because they feel that they cannot tithe and still survive. It is arrogant and self-righteous that we, who often have tithed out of our surplus, to judge them so harshly on the basis of a false doctrine.

Do the math. Help the poor Christian by opposing the tithing doctrine.

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A file found on www.freefromtithing.info and www.allnationsmin.org