

# God Has A Special Place For Those Who Feel Left Out<sup>1</sup>

By Andy Smith

*Just then he looked up and saw the rich people dropping offerings in the collection plate. Then he saw a poor widow put in two pennies. He said, “The plain truth is that this widow has given by far the largest offering today. All these others made offerings that they’ll never miss; she gave extravagantly what she couldn’t afford—she gave her all!”*

*Luke 21:1-4 (The Message)*

God has a special place in his heart for those who feel left out. Jesus has a special ministry for those who feel they have little, if anything to offer. Our God seems to specialize in working his will through the simple, the everyday, the plain, the small and the unlikely.

Luke tells the story of a poor widow who must have felt left out in the community of her day. A grieving widow was not allowed to inherit the property of her deceased husband, thus casting her into immediate homelessness and poverty. Often viewed as an outcast in society, widows were left to the mercy of others for their survival. Her physical poverty was devastating. Her emotional poverty was even worse. Rejection, loneliness and despair were a regular part of her daily life.

One day Jesus watched as rich people dropped their offering into the collection plate when **a poor widow** quietly dropped in two small pennies. She must have felt insignificant. Her offering was not that much and

certainly wouldn't be valued. She felt the least likely to be noticed by Jesus. Two small pennies - what difference could they possibly make? Quietly, she slips away into the crowd.

Jesus notices what others ignore. He announces to all in church that day how truly extravagant her offering was! What seemed insignificant to her became a treasured offering to Jesus. She was stunned.

***Royal Blue with Stripes of Red*** is not just the story of Sew Powerful and the Sew Powerful Purse program. It is the bigger story of God using the simple and discarded to create beauty and wholeness. This is what he desires to do in all of us.

Are you feeling left out? Are you feeling small and insignificant? Then you are right where our Lord wants you! God has a very special place for you...

### **Questions for thought:**

1. What does the small piece of fabric represent to you?
2. What is the significance of the note card and even the pocket holding the card?
3. How can you turn the simple little offerings of your life into something God can use?

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<sup>1</sup> The phrase God Has A Special Place For Those Who Feel Left Out was first used in *The Crippled Lamb*, by Max Lucado.