

FaithBIT



The Center of Life

Reflection by Gary Hammer

On a Thursday morning in February 2009, I walked into our Men's Bible Study at Baker's Square in Eden Prairie. Someone asked me, "How's it going, Gary?"

I replied, "Well, my 401(K) is a 201(K) now!" I was half joking, but my comment was serious, too, following the drop in the stock market and retirement planned within 10 years. Yet, I felt a calmness that was much different than Black Monday in 1987.

Why? God has been changing my attitude toward money over the years. A big part of that is the story of the widow in Mark 12: 42-44...

"Presently, there came a poor widow who dropped in two tiny coins, together worth a penny. Jesus called his disciples to him and said, 'Truly, I tell you this poor widow has given more than all those giving to the temple, for the others who have given had more than enough, but she, with less than enough, has given everything.'"

A widow gives two tiny coins—all she had—for the temple. Not only was she extremely generous, but she trusted totally in God for her care. She didn't fret.

“...she had removed the power of money with her generosity.”
- Gary Hammer

I realized that she had removed the power of money with her generosity. The center of her life was God, not money.

Now, when a financial disaster (or any disaster) strikes, I know that I remain in God's continuing care and that's all that matters.