



"And now I am no more in the world,
but these are in the world..." (John 17:11).

Use this recent news story to help your students see the relevance
of this week's lesson from the Standard Lesson Commentary®
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POOR BY CHOICE

Last week, Pope Francis accepted a second miracle attributed to the late Mother Teresa. His decision advanced her closer to Roman Catholic sainthood, which is likely to be bestowed on her in 2016. A former Nobel Peace Prize recipient, Teresa of Calcutta is considered by many to be one of the greatest humanitarians of modern times. Teresa chose a life of poverty, willingly living for half a century among "the poorest of the poor" in India (as she called those to whom she ministered).

POOR, BUT NOT IN SPIRIT

In the context of Jesus' criticism of the religious leaders of his day, Mark records his commendation of a poor widow who gave generously in spite of her poverty. Jesus indicates we should not measure a gift by its size, but in comparison to the resources of the one who gives it and the spirit in which it is given.

1. Theology aside, what can we learn from Mother Teresa's life? What elements of Teresa's self-sacrificing lifestyle can serve as a model for all followers of Christ?
2. How did Teresa's attitudes differ from that of the Jewish leaders Jesus confronted? How would you translate their attitudes into examples in today's church culture? Have you known Christian leaders with attitudes like theirs? Explain.
3. Tell the class about a Christian leader who exemplifies the servant attitudes which Jesus commands us to show.
4. What principles do you take from this lesson that will help you in your giving to the Lord during the coming year?

—Charles R. Boatman

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