

And while all the people were listening, He said to the disciples, "Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and love respectful greetings in the market places, and chief seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets, who devour widows' houses, and for appearance's sake offer long prayers. These will receive greater condemnation."

And He looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the treasury. And He saw a 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."

And while some were talking about the temple, that it was adorned with beautiful stones and votive gifts, He said, "As for these things which you are looking at, the days will come in which there will not be left one stone upon another which will not be torn down."

They questioned Him, saying, "Teacher, when therefore will these things happen? And what *will be* the sign when these things are about to take place?"

Luke 20:45-21:7 (NASB)

Not a single question about the widow's giving, but when Jesus foretold the destruction of the Temple, they couldn't ask fast enough, "When?" and "What are the warning signs?"

Without question, the poor widow's giving of her last two cents is an act of great devotion, one hundred percent sacrifice, and faith, surpassing the sum total of what the rich gave that day. Jesus also elevates the status of the poor, reminding all of us that God looks at people very differently than we are. But in the context, Jesus' observation and comments about the widow's giving are sandwiched between a condemnation of the religious leaders and prophesying the destruction of the Temple.

Was Jesus pointing out the widow surrendering her last two coins as an example of exploitation in the name of religion? Jesus already identified the scribes (interpreters and teachers of the Old Testament) as religious exploiters with an insatiable appetite for recognition and the finer things of life, who were very good at sounding spiritual. What

were they teaching? I imagine they were just as adept as today's health and wealth-preaching charlatans, who expertly mix a deceptive brew of promises and guilt that will milk a poor widow out of her last two pennies.

They sure made it look good; the temple was impressive. Nobody but Jesus noticed the widow, nor did they hear what Jesus said, they were fixated on the impressive edifice and the staggering value of it. Clearly, a testimony that those religious leaders had it right when they taught about how secure God's financial blessing and physical well-being.

None of them asked, "Why?" "Why is God going to destroy the temple (again)?" What's the answer to that question? Because it was supposed to be a house of prayer, not exploitation. It was supposed to be a place where a widow could find help, not be stripped of her last two cents. It was supposed to be a place where your net worth, wardrobe, and social standing didn't make a difference, not a place where the rich were honored with plaques and personal shrines. It was supposed to be, but wasn't, a safe place for the most vulnerable, "**Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world**" James 1:27 (NASB).

None of his disciples asked, "Where did that widow go, how can we help her?" They were busy admiring architecture, fancy stones, what serious money can buy. Stones are less messy than caring about people, helping the poor, noticing the unnoticed, valuing the "least of these" and treating them with dignity like Jesus.

Paul asked the Corinthian Church and us, the Lake Don Pedro Baptist Church, "**Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?**" 1 Corinthians 3:16 (NASB). May we never give Jesus cause to tear it down.

To God be all glory. Love you, Pastor Hans



# Lord Hear Our Prayers

## PRAYER REQUEST

Antonio Villegas, Rachel's Health,  
our Country's leadership, Our Pastor Search Team  
and those dealing with addiction(s).

## SALVATION

Nick, Greg, David, Luke, Skip, Demetrius McCray,  
Farney, Peter, Jimmy, Dan, Josiah, Amanda, Jim

## Military And Those Serving

Michael Berger, Austin Downing, Noah Martin,  
John Michael Chavez, Chris Kelly, Austin Kroeker,  
Brian Sula, Thomas Hoffman, Joel Thelen,  
Clayton Brown, Jonathan Grinols, Joshua Grabowski,  
Christopher Sula, Dylan Briggs, Jacob Bowden

## CARD & FLOWER MINISTRY

If you know of anyone who is ill or hospitalized, please let us know by calling: **Lynnette Barrera** – (559)400-1862 and/or e-mail **Judy Mahar** at [ldpbcprayer@gmail.com](mailto:ldpbcprayer@gmail.com) with your prayer requests.

## Church Board Members:

Hans Frei - Pastor , Richard Mayes - Head Deacon ,  
Chuck Arndt, Barb Deibler, Jerry Lyman,  
Sarah Storey, April Wilcox



## **VBS: Magnified!**

Coming to Lake Don Pedro Baptist Church

**July 21 - 25**

Volunteers needed!

Please sign up in the foyer

For more information: Susie (209) 247-9234

# **Centrifuge Youth Summer Camp**

**Date: July 7th - 12th**

**Location: Jenness Park**

**Cold Springs, CA**

**For more information Contact**

**Matt & Wendy Garcia: (209)765-6914**

# APRIL Announcements

## Upcoming Events

- Men's Gathering - Tuesday's @ 6:00 PM
- Wednesday Night Bible Study for all ages @ 7:00 PM
- Food Ministry - 1st Wednesday & 3rd Tuesday 9-11 AM
- Women's Ministry - Wednesday's @ 10:00AM
- GriefShare: Wednesday's, March 5th - April 23rd @ 6:30 PM
- Chicken Foot - Thursday's @ 1:00 PM
- Bunco: Monday, April 14th @ 11:30 AM

Fellowship Refreshments were provided by:  
"Dennis's Class"

**Thank you**

*Next week "Beverly & Youth Class" is up!!*

## **"2025 Tanzania Mission Trip"**

November 2nd - 18th

(See Pastor Hans for further details)

If you notice someone has been absent from Small Group or Worship Services for awhile, why not call them or stop by to let him/her know that they have been missed. A kindness that



**Giving**

*March 30, 2025*

**Offering:**  
\$3,744.00

**Facilities:**  
\$1.00

**Food:**  
\$56.00

**Books:**  
\$1.00

**VBS:**  
\$50.00

**Attendance:**  
106

**Weekly Events**

**Sunday School/Small Groups:**  
9:00 AM

**Sunday Morning Worship Service:**  
10:30 AM

**Sunday Evening Worship Service:**  
6:00 PM

**Tuesday:** Men's Gathering: 6:00 PM

**1st Wednesday & 3rd Tuesday**  
**Food Ministry:**

9:00 AM -11:00 AM

**Wednesday:**

Women's Bible Study - 10:00 AM  
Bible Study/Small Group - 7:00 PM  
GriefShare - 6:30 PM

**Thursday:** Chicken Foot - 1:00 PM

**Saturday:** Youth Hang-Out 6-9 PM

**Lake Don Pedro Baptist Church**  
4175 Abeto Street  
La Grange California 95329  
ldpbaptistchurch@gmail.com  
www.ldpbaptistchurch.com

# Give

Give, and it will be given to you; a good measure—pressed down, shaken together, and running over—will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you.”

Luke 6:38 (NIV)



**Yearly Bible Reading Plan - 2025**  
**April 7th - April 13th**

DAY 1 - John 1-2  
(Psalms 35)

DAY 2 - John 3-4  
(Psalms 36)

DAY 3 - John 5-6  
(Psalms 37)

DAY 4 - John 7-8  
(Psalms 38)

DAY 5 - John 9-10  
(Psalms 39)

DAY 6 - (Psalms 40)

DAY 7 - (Psalms 41)

**Welcome all of you who are guests with us today. Our desire is for you to relax and be blessed by worship, God's Word, and fellowship. We, the members, have committed ourselves to underwrite the church financially. We do not expect you to contribute to the offering, but you are free to participate. We would like to get to know you and for you to know us better.**