

"Harry and Linda"

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by Rebecca Enney

These folks here are Harry and Linda. They look a lot the same to us, don't they? The only way I can tell them apart is to look at their name written here on the bottom. But one of them is a very important business figure. She has a LOT of money, and I mean a LOT! She has the very best fur groomer and food and such not. She is a success. She has ABUNDANCE! The best of everything!

And this is Harry. He lives in a poor section of town and has a hard time getting a job. He uses Food Stamps. They are like a coupon to receive free food from government programs. He barely can pay his rent and sometimes, because he cannot pay his heating bill, he turns the heat off and wears a lot of sweaters in his apartment. He has SCARCITY. Almost nothing at all.

Both Harry and Linda go to church every week. And they both put their envelope with money in the offering basket when the offering assistants pass it down the row of chairs.

So, before the offering basket comes her way, Linda opens her designer name purse and gets out her designer name wallet. She has a lot of money in there, like these \$100 bills. She has a \$1,000,000 too, but she does not keep that in her wallet. She decides to put in the \$100.00 bill! She does it feeling self-righteously proud of her gift.

When the basket comes to Harry, his wallet only has these two \$1.00 bills. The last of his cash. He has no money in the bank. And do you know how much he puts in the basket?

You might think he puts nothing in the basket. After all, it is the only money he has for food until his check comes in the mail in a few weeks. Or maybe you might think he would put in a \$1.00 bill. That would be half of all the money he has.

But the Bible lesson this morning says that Harry put in BOTH \$1.00's! ALL THE MONEY HE HAS!

When Jesus sees Harry's offering, He says: "Truly, Harry has placed more in the basket than Linda, for she has contributed out of her ABUNDANCE and Harry, out of his scarcity, has put in everything he has to live on."

THE END