

and that after the envelopes thus gathered had been opened, the texts read, and the money put into the receptacle awaiting it, there should be a hymn and responsive reading while the envelopes from contributors in the next aisle were being gathered.

Miss Banks sat in the second aisle—there were but three—and it chanced that her envelope was the last to be opened of those gathered in that section. The minister opened it to find it quite empty save for a bit of paper from which he read: "It grieved me to think that no coin of mine could be counted among other offerings to-night, and I was tempted to bitterness of soul because of this, when the thought came that I could make an offering of prayer. Falling upon my knees, I asked that it might be the happy privilege of some one else to make a double offering because to me has been denied the privilege to give at all. That I might not dishonor God by unworthy doubts that he will answer my prayer, I have chosen for my text, 'O woman, great is thy faith, be it unto thee even as thou wilt.'"

There was a little silence after the pastor sat down; many who had given even liberally remembered suddenly that there had been no odor of prayer about their gift. It was but a moment that the silence lasted, but it was long enough for the arrow of conviction, shot from a shaft in God's own hand, to pierce the heart of one who sat at the end of the aisle down which the collectors were now coming. With fingers trembling with eagerness, she tore open the end of an envelope she held in her hand, shook out a dime and two quarters which it held, and tucked in their place two twenty-dollar bills, while she hastily penciled the words: "To go with the envelope which held the prayer, if God will accept it from one who was selfishly tempted to give a few coins of little value instead." None in the congregation knew who had made the offering, but as the pastor unrolled the bills and read the lines which accompanied them, and then with tender emotion asked for a blessing on the two who had thus made a special heart offering, tears stood in the eyes of more than one, but into two hearts had stolen the peace which God grants to those who seek to do his will.