



The Mighty Penny

(Cut a giant cardboard penny with a hole for your face to come through making it look like a real penny or dress like Abraham Lincoln.)

Lincoln comes on stage:

Good day, everyone. I'm very honored to be here to say a few words to this illustrious gathering of talented and dedicated women. I'm sure most of you probably recognize me from your history classes in school. Others of you may be more familiar with me from my likeness on the penny you see every day. It is a funny thing, having your likeness on a coin. You would not believe the places I have been and the things I have seen looking out from the face of those pennies. It has been remarkable.

You know, someone once asked me, "Abe, where's the one place you have traveled to most since you've been on the penny?" I had to be honest with him. After all "Honest Abe" used to be my nickname. I said to the fellow, "Friend, since my face has graced the surface of that little coin, the place I have visited most often is the inside of an LWML Mite Box."

That's right, I've been a lot of places. I have been in pockets, purses, wallets, cash registers, and piggybanks, just to name a few. Yet, it seems that I am placed most often in LWML Mite Boxes.

Now, don't get me wrong. I am mighty honored to be a part of your worthwhile cause, and all the grants that you support are simply marvelous and very impressive. It's just that I wish I could be of more help.

You see, a part of the problem is as a coin I am just not as powerful as I once was. When they first started minting me, I was worth my weight in gold. You could say to a person, "A penny for your thoughts." With the worth of a coin at that time, the average citizen could tell you everything they'd thought of lately and still owe you some change. Sad to say, it is just not that way anymore.

I guess one could say "Four score and seven years ago" . . . (pause for effect) those little coins you've been putting into your Mite Box were really worth something. However, this isn't four score and seven years ago. It is the twenty-first century.

I suppose I could be a little more specific about the problem. Actually putting pennies in your Mite Box is a fine and noble gesture, as long as you don't limit it to pennies. I mean, it was quite the joke among the presidents on all the coins. Remember how I said my nickname used to be "Honest Abe?" Well, some time back the other coins had taken to calling me "Lonely Lincoln" because I spent so much time as the only coin in your boxes. Lately, I have spent more time with the Jefferson nickel and Roosevelt dime. I have to admit the real

thrill has been when the Washington quarter arrives. We all have quite the discussion wondering which state is depicted.

I would like you to take a moment and think about the type of grants your wonderful organization sponsors, and then spend a moment considering how much those types of things cost. Let's say your organization is providing funding to send a missionary to South America or someplace like that. I don't want to seem unkind, but if you all bring in your Mite Boxes filled to the brim with the likenesses of me, you are going to have a hard time getting that missionary across town in a taxi on that kind of currency, much less to South America.

So, by all means, put me into your Mite Boxes, but put in a couple of my dignified friends, too. In fact, a little paper padding would make things a lot more comfortable and homey for us coins, and it's always nice to see that green portrait of George on the one, that picture of Andy on the ten, or maybe even that dapper handsome bearded gentleman who adorns the five. Speaking of the five, I notice we now have something else in common. Have you noticed that it now is not only green but purple too!

I have talked much about the value of money. Respectfully, I remind you that your motivation must not be purely about the value of what you place into your Mite Boxes. My goodness, we all know if that is your motivation then you are doing it for the wrong reason. No, I must say it is a godly motive that began this work. You raise money for missions and that mission, if I understand it correctly, is to share the saving love of Christ Jesus with those who do not yet know Him. Christ Jesus bought our salvation with neither gold nor silver, but with something that has real value, the shedding of his own precious blood! It never devalues no matter the economic times!

That brings me to another point I want to make. Do you know what else we coins hear when placed in your Mite Boxes? That's right, prayer! Yes indeed, you ladies are a praying bunch! Why, you put money in your Mite Boxes as a prayer of thanksgiving for all kinds of reasons. Oh, and I can't forget that your prayers are often regarding the mission grants you support. And they say I am a praying man ...

When you think about it, being generous with your Mite Box donations is a golden opportunity to Serve the Lord with Gladness. Honest! (Start to exit, then pause.) Oh, and if you have any comments on my little speech today, you can send them to me at my Gettysburg Address. (Exit)

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