



Week of November 11, 2018

Mark 12:38-44

³⁸ As he taught, he said, "Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces,

³⁹ and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets!

⁴⁰ They devour widows' houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation."

⁴¹ He sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums.

⁴² A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny.

⁴³ Then he called his disciples and said to them, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury.

⁴⁴ For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on."



Group Leader

Remember: you don't need to use all of the questions. Go with what works. Give people a chance to think before answering, but if a question falls flat, move on. Let the discussion go where it needs to go, as long as it remains centered around the lesson. Give the participants page 1. Use this page for yourself.

Gathering questions:

- A. What was the most meaningful *small* gift or gesture you ever received? How about one you have given?
- B. When did you most significantly question an authority figure in person?

Bible Study Questions:

1. Why do you think the widow gave all she had?
2. One scholar wrote that the widow's gift "*was too small to be of help, ultimately a waste, and she died in absurdity.*" How do you feel about this remark?
3. In what situations are you most concerned about putting on appearances?
4. Widows were the prototypical defenseless poor people of the ancient world. What persons today would you say are the "widows" of our society? Who "devours" these widows' assets?
5. Do you give out of a sense of your own abundance or a sense of your own scarcity?
6. Do you feel that tithing is a realistic demand?
7. In what area of your life do you need to be more generous? What keeps you from being as generous as you could be?

Closing prayer: Invite prayers for areas of your life that you can more completely surrender to God.