

# Jesus & Money: The Widow's Mite

Luke 21:1-4

February 4, 2024

## Begin with Prayer

In silence, invite the Holy Spirit to guide you. Then pray:  
*Empowering God, we pray that you will send your Holy Spirit to move us to understanding; to help us to believe the gospel; to give us strength and wisdom to live by it. Amen.* (Worship Sourcebook Q.3.5.8)



## Reconnecting and Debriefing

Take a moment to check in with one another (2 minutes each).

1. *What is a "hidden gem" you think others should know about (a restaurant, a movie, a travel destination, etc.)?*
2. *Who is the most generous person you know?*

### Introduction

*When we gather, our goal is to be a people apprenticed to the life of Jesus. As you begin this week, remind your group that while we are meeting, commit to focussing rather than multitasking. Be all here.*

## Listening to God's Word

Generosity can be counterintuitive to our natural instincts. Whether we have much or have little, our tendencies can be to ensure that we are taken care of and comfortable, only giving from the scraps. Jesus sees this differently, pointing to a poor widow giving pennies as true generosity. **This passage will help us define true generosity and become generous people, thinking through what that looks like throughout our lives.**

## Small Group Discussion

**Read Luke 21:1-4.** Then discuss together:

- ***What is your first thought when you read through this passage?***
- We sometimes measure generosity by how much people give, but the widow actually gave very little. *What does this tell you about what God values?*
- In the Old Testament, God instructed his people to specifically take care of the poor, foreigners, orphans, and widows, since they were especially marginalized (Ex. 22:21-22; Deut. 15:11). *Who are the marginalized in our society? What does caring for them through generosity look like?*
- On the surface, it seems like it would have been wise for the widow to save her money rather than give it away. *How do you balance financial wisdom with generosity?*
- *Are there times when we should withhold financial generosity? If so, under what circumstances? If not, why?*

## Read Matthew 6:1-4

- *Why should you give in secret rather than publicizing it?*
- *If you give in secret, what does a “reward” from God look like?*
- *How do you ensure that your generosity is for the sake of someone else, and not for a sense of self-righteousness?*
- *How do you feel when you practice generosity?*
- **Read 2 Corinthians 9:7.** *How can you experience joy in generosity?*
- ***How do you sense the Holy Spirit calling you to respond to or act on what we have read and discussed?***

## Practice – Giving in Secret

As Jesus unpacks in Matthew 6, we have a tendency to give in ways that make us look or feel good. This misses the heart of generosity, as God desires us to give in ways that care for the other person and don't point back to ourselves. In doing this in secret, we do not receive any thanks or praise, making our generosity an act of love to them and giving glory to God alone.

Take some time to pray and reflect in silence. Ask God two questions:

1. *Who is somebody I can be generous to this week?*
2. *How can I be generous to them?*

Generosity may take several different shapes. It could be through the giving of money, purchasing of groceries, giving a gift, or donating to a particular charity. In prayer and reflection, decide how much you will give – everyone's financial situation is different, and everyone might be called to give different amounts. If you are unable or uncomfortable giving financially, consider how you can serve that person instead.

When it comes time to give to/serve that person, give thought how to make it secretive. You might leave an anonymous card or gift at their home, ask a third party to give it to them without saying who it was from, or do a chore for them without telling them.

*Without telling the group what you are planning on doing (that would defeat the purpose!), share if you have a person and plan for secretive generosity, as well as how you feel about it.*

## Caring for One Another

- *Suggest a prayer request that is related to the topic we've discussed.*
- ***Do you or your family have a need that the Life Group can help meet?***

Using **the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13)** as a guide, based on what you've shared together, spend time listening to God and praying for one another.