

Give Like a Poor Widow Mark 12:38-44

Give until it's a sacrifice, not out of surplus

Mark 12:44a – *“for they all put in out of their surplus”*

- Treasury - see other side for background. Lepta or Leptons - smallest Greek copper coin; worth 1/128 of a denarius (a day's wage) - approximately \$1 today
- “For the love of money is the root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.” 1 Timothy 6:10
- The amount we give doesn't matter. Large amounts with the wrong heart are considered less valued.
- The churches in Macedonia “in a great ordeal of affliction their abundance of joy and their deep poverty overflowed in the wealth of their liberality. For I testify that according to their ability, and beyond their ability, they gave of their own accord.” 2 Corinthians 8:1-3
- Mark 10:29-32 - the disciples left everything to follow Jesus
- The Rich Young Ruler vs. The Poor Widow. The rich people are putting on a show. This woman is the real deal.

Give to be “all in” for God's kingdom

Mark 12:44b – *“but she, out of her poverty, put in all she owned, all she had to live on”*

- Jesus could be preparing them for Acts 2 & 4 where the early church members gave everything for the common purpose.
- The last thing on Jesus' mind is getting money from you. He wants your heart. But our hearts are connected to our money.

Response - Process through these questions

- How are you giving? Where is your heart regarding giving and being all-in?
- Are you giving at all? Are you only tipping God out of your surplus?
- Are you setting yourself up to be successful at the Christian life?
 - Have you established patterns of spending and lifestyle that prevent you from being generous?
 - Have you prayed and thought through clear goals for finances and giving?

ACTION STEP - establish one clear, tangible step today to move towards an all-in generous life

- This could be taking something out of your spending to free you up to generous
- This could be increasing giving by one percent
- This could be choosing to give a certain amount or percentage this year
- This could be allocating parts of your budget to random generosity
- This could be taking a class at Calvary or on RightNow Media about generosity and biblical finance

Write down your action step here:

Digging Deeper + LifeGroup Discussion:

According to Arnold Fruchtenbaum and Maimonides, the Treasury included thirteen horn-shaped chests that each served a different purpose. The Treasury was located in the Court of Women, the first court of the temple proper.

1. Taxes for the present year
2. Taxes for the previous year
3. Poor man's offering of two turtledoves or two pigeons
4. Money donated in order to offer up any other kind of bird
5. Voluntary offering to buy wood for the altar
6. Voluntary offering to buy frankincense
7. Voluntary offering to buy gold dedicated for the interior of the Holy of Holies
8. When one bought a sacrifice for the sacrifice of sin and something remained over and above
9. Any money left over from sacrifices for the guilt-offering
10. Any money left over after purchasing pigeons for women that had fluxes and that were delivered from childbirth
11. Offerings required after finishing a Nazirite vow
12. Any money that remained after purchasing the sacrifice of lepers
13. Money to be used for the offering of the burnt-offerings

Next Steps:

ATTEND THE 'OVERFLOW: A LIFE REFRESHED BY GENEROSITY' CLASS: God gives us the secret to energy, strength, and joy. It's life to the full, receiving the blessings and gifts of God and pouring them into others. Join us Sundays, February 3 - 24 at 11:00 am in G-211 for inspiring stories, spiritual wisdom, and practical ideas to cultivate a generous life. Go beyond being just obedient. Live a Refreshed Life of Generosity. calvarylife.org/overflow

TAKE AN ONLINE CLASS ON GENEROSITY: Calvary values equipping you and your families to grow in your faith, so we've partnered with RightNow Media, which is like the "Netflix of Video Bible Studies," giving you FREE access to 10,000+ videos for kids, youth, adults, parents, married couples and more, that you can watch instantly from your computer, mobile device or TV. To sign up for a RightNow Media account, visit calvarylife.org/rightnow then take a look at Biblical Finance videos at rightnowmedia.org/Library/15

In Response:

COMMUNION: Communion is a "meal" for believers in Jesus Christ to help us give thanks and remember His death on the cross for the forgiveness of sins. The matzah bread represents the body of Christ given for us. The cup of juice represents the blood of Christ that was shed to pay the price for our sins. We are called to examine ourselves before taking communion (Read 1 Corinthians 11:23-34). We typically pass communion elements the first Sunday of the month. Most other weeks, communion is available at tables around the room after the sermon.

GIVING: The offering is received during each Sunday service. This is a way to express a wholehearted trust in God and worship Him through giving. It is also an act of obedience to God that helps free us from money having mastery over us. Tithing is a biblical command of 10% as a baseline of giving, but the New Testament calls us as followers of Jesus to give even more. Our prayer is that you plan ahead to give purposefully and joyfully to God, helping to further ministry locally and globally in Jesus' name. Discover ways to give on the front of the bulletin or calvarylife.org/give

PRAYER POINTS: These locations at the front right and left of the Worship Center will have people available to pray with you during the time of singing after the sermon and after the service as well. These people are excited to pray with you about anything in your life, including praying to tell Jesus that you believe in Him as God and trust Him for salvation. They will also pray for any health needs, stresses, worries, family members, temptations or anything else.

PRAYER ROOM: The Prayer Room is located at the front right of the Worship Center Auditorium through the doorway behind the Prayer Point. This is a quiet space that you can go to at anytime during the service to be able to pray and reflect on what God is doing in your heart.