

Scripture Reading: Mark 12:41-44

Sermon Title: My Heart is The Offering

Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. ⁴² But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a few cents.

⁴³ Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. ⁴⁴ They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on.”

The widow is demonstrating tremendous faith.

They devour widows' houses and for a show make lengthy prayers. These men will be punished most severely.”

Mark 12:40

They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—**all she had to live on.**”

Mark 12:44b

The widow gave God her first & best.

⁴⁴ They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on.”

The widow gave herself to God before she gave her life to others.

And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us

2 Corinthians 8:5

The widow is an example of how we steward our resources & our lives.

Steward:

A steward is a person who **manages the resources of another.**

Stewardship:

Stewardship represents the activity of **oversight & management** of the resources someone has been entrusted with

⁴³ Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, this poor widow has **put more** into the treasury than all the others.

While he was in Bethany, reclining at the table in the home of Simon the Leper, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, made of pure nard. She broke the jar and poured the perfume on his head.

⁴ Some of those present were saying indignantly to one another, “Why this waste of perfume? ⁵It could have been sold for more than a year’s wages and the money given to the poor.” And they rebuked her harshly.

⁶ “Leave her alone,” said Jesus. “Why are you bothering her? She has done a beautiful thing to me. ⁷ The poor you will always have with you, and you can help them any time you want. But you will not always have me. ⁸ She did what she could. She poured perfume on my body beforehand to prepare for my burial. ⁹ Truly I tell you, **wherever the gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her.**”

Mark 14:3-9

My heart is the offering

Jesus embodies perfectly what the widow demonstrated powerfully.

My heart is the offering applied to giving

Give God the first & best of your resources examining your attitude & ability.

My heart is the offering applied to living

Then Jesus said to them, “Give back to Caesar what is Caesar’s and **to God what is God’s.**”

Mark 12:17

³⁰ **Love** the Lord your God **with all** your heart and **with all** your soul and **with all** your mind and **with all** your strength.’ ³¹ The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.”

Mark 12:30-31

Love God entirely. Love yourself correctly. Love people sincerely.

There is a difference between Pouring Yourself Out & Wearing Yourself Out

Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

Matthew 4:4

But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you know nothing about.”

³³ Then his disciples said to each other, “Could someone have brought him food?”

³⁴ “My food,” said Jesus, “is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work.

John 4:32-34

Be with Jesus before & above everything else.

A lesson for the future:

Our heart is the offering

They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—**all she had to live on.**”

Mark 12:44b

Our capacity is not measured by our resources its measured by **our dependence**