

# Famous Givers Part 1 - The Poor Widow Amazing Gift

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## Message to Conversation Guide

### Key Passage

#### **Mark 12:41-44**

*41 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 fraction of a penny.*

*43 Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, 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." NIV*

### Discussion Questions

Talk about these famous givers: Andrew Carnegie and Bill Gates. Can you think of other famous givers in history or in our times? Who is the most giving person you know?

When Jesus saw the widow give her gift he was sitting down near in the court of women in the temple. There were 13 trumpet shaped receptacles against the wall. Discuss and imagine what it looked like for the rich to walk to the offering receptacles verses the poor widow. What do you think this scene looked like?

The widow gave two *lepta* which is the smallest Jewish point that was in circulation in Jesus time. It was literally worth 1/8 of a cent. She could have gave one *lepton* but instead gave all she had. In other words she didn't hold anything back - she was all in! Discuss the principle of complete commitment to the Lord verses partial commitment to the Lord.

How do the verses below illustrate that God's kingdom is worth our total investment and Kingdom?

#### **Matt 13:44-46**

*44 "The kingdom of heaven is like **treasure** hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and **sold all he had** and bought that field. 45 "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. 46 When he found **one of great value**, he went away and **sold everything he had** and bought it. NIV*

Read and discuss famous quote below.

*"He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep in order to gain what he cannot lose."*  
*Jim Eliot*

The rich in the story gave out of their surplus. The widow gave out of her poverty. Discuss this principle: the measure of a gift is its sacrifice not its dollar amount.

When the rich gave, although they gave a lot they still had a lot left over. When the widow gave she had nothing left over. Discuss this idea - great gifts have nothing to do with the amount given but with the amount left over after the gift is given.

The widow gave out of her poverty. Compare the attitude of the widow with the Corinthians church in the verses below.

**2 Cor 8:1-7**

*8 And now, brothers, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. 2 **Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity.** 3 For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, 4 they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the saints. 5 **And they did not do as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us in keeping with God's will.** 6 So we urged Titus, since he had earlier made a beginning, to bring also to completion this act of grace on your part. 7 But just as you excel in everything — in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us — see that you also excel in this grace of giving. NIV*

Discuss these Myths that are debunked in the story of the Widow's offering.

*God never pays attention to what we give.*

*Big gifts always impress God more than small gifts.*

*Giving our money is in no way related to our commitment to him and his Kingdom.*

Giving is to be motivated by love not by guilt. Why does love make giving much less painful? Discuss the difference between guilt giving and love giving.

*Concluding Thought: After the Widow gave everything she had to depend on the Lord for survival. The rich gave a lot but still depend on themselves. The best position to be in life is in the position where we must depend on the Lord at all times.*