

SERMON NOTES

The Grand Narrative
Epoch Eight

JESUS AND THE POOR WIDOW

March 8, 2026

Mark 12:41-44 (NIV)

"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. ⁴²But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a few cents. ⁴³Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. ⁴⁴They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on."

HOW WE GIVE...

1. _____, NOT FOR SHOW.

Matthew 6:1 (NIV)

"Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven."

Matthew 6:3-4 (NIV)

"But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁽⁴⁾ so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you."

2. _____, NOT JUST FROM SURPLUS.

Proverbs 11:24-25 (NIV)

"One person gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty. ⁽²⁵⁾A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed."

2 Samuel 24:24 (NIV)

"I will not sacrifice to the Lord my God burnt offerings that cost me nothing."

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3. _____, **NOT FROM COMPULSION.**

Proverbs 11:25 (MSG)

"The one who blesses others is abundantly blessed; those who help others are helped."

4. _____, **NOT WITH PASSIVITY.**

2 Corinthians 9:7 (NIV)

"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

1 Corinthians 16:2 (NIV)

"On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made."

Matthew 6:33 (NIV)

"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."

Am I giving with SINCERITY, for God and not the crowd?

Am I giving with SACRIFICE, not just leftover comfort?

Am I giving with CHEER, not guilt?

Am I giving with PURPOSE—do I mean for my gift to make a spiritual difference?

These are the

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Next Week in The Grand Narrative:
Epoch 8 (Surrender)
Jesus Washes the Disciple's Feet

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