



I. **Making Change in the Offering Plate**

Key Truth: Jesus recognizes a faithful offering.

II. **The Example of the Poor Widow**

Mark 12:41-44

v. 41-42

The Amount of the Offering

Point: Jesus recognizes what a faithful offering is.

v. 43-44

The Heart Behind the Offering

Point: Jesus recognizes why a faithful offering is given.

III. **Faithful Offerings in the Face of Difficulty**

Mid-Week Devotional (Take time this week to pray & respond to the following)

Throughout Mark’s gospel, there are examples of how to and how not to approach wealth. Thus far in “The Journey Through Mark,” the negative examples have outweighed the positive examples. For instance, in Mark 10:17-31, a rich young man forsook the call to follow Christ because “he had great possessions” (v. 22). Even the Jewish religious leaders, who should have been models of selflessness and generosity, were condemned by Jesus for “devour[ing] widows’ houses” through excessive taxation (Mark 12:40).

But in Mark 12:41-44, readers find one of the only positive examples of how to handle money in all the gospels. The poor widow, impoverished because of her social status, offered everything she had to the religious establishment in accordance with Jewish law and in accordance with her own faith in God. Imagine the stress she would have felt. Imagine the temptation she would have had to give less, or even to avoid giving altogether. And yet, despite all of this, she gave “everything she had, all she had to live on” (v. 44). This was the kind of faith that Jesus recognized. That is the kind of faith that trusts the Lord and finds contentment in all things.

This week, read Mark 12:41-44 again. Consider who you might identify with in this story: the rich who gave much, or the widow who gave little. Ask yourself: how can I trust God more regarding my finances? Can I offer more to him? If so, how? Pray over your finances this week and relinquish control over them to the sovereign Lord who will always care for you.