

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help you talk about God's word and Pastor Brian's message with friends and family. You of course can use your own questions, but we'd like to give you this tool to encourage Biblical fellowship and discipleship in your circle of relationships. ***Enjoy discovering more about Him!***

"WHEN MUCH AMOUNTS TO LITTLE & LITTLE AMOUNTS TO MUCH" | LUKE 20:41-LUKE 21:4 | PASTOR BRIAN BELL

WARM-UP QUESTION:

What types of people and/or jobs that are easily overlooked in our society today?

"Christology" (Luke 20: 41-44)

Jesus talks about a prophecy about the Messiah being descended from King David and then uses scripture to show that the Messiah wouldn't just be a human but also God. **What is hard about understanding Jesus as both fully human and fully God? Why is it important to know for Christ-followers?**

"Hypocrisy" (Luke 20: 45-47)

Jesus points out how so many of the religious leaders who were self-centered, greedy, and cruel in how they lived. **What are ways to recognize self-centered leadership today? How do people guard their own hearts from being self-centered in their faith?**

"Generosity" (Luke 21: 1-4)

Jesus watches both the rich and a poor widow put money in the offering box. **In what ways is it challenging knowing Jesus sees peoples' finances and giving? In what ways is it encouraging knowing Jesus looks at the sacrifice and not the amount?**

Jesus honors the widow for her sacrifice over the rich and religious leaders who gave out of wealth instead of poverty. **What are ways today people can notice the poor and honor them, treating them with dignity?**

REFLECTION QUESTION:

In this passage we see Jesus is both God and man and can see through false religion and encourage true faith. God looks at the heart and isn't fooled by outward appearances, which means we don't have to keep up outward appearances, but we do have to answer for what is in our hearts. **What is one thing you could let go of or stop doing that would make you less of a hypocrite? What is one thing you could do or give to increase your generosity? Pray that God would help you with living for Him in a sacrificial way instead of a self-centered way.**

Luke 20:41-21:4

4-16-23

When Much Amounts to Little & Little Amounts to Much

I. Slide1 Announce:

- A. **Slide2-10 AP:** Ladies Retreat. **@Risk**. Fresh Faith. **Baptism**. Foster. **Giving Opp.** VBS. **Facilities**. **CM Survey** (how to best serve you).
- B. **Slide11 Baby Dedication** (3rd): Eliza Faith Vivar. **Parents:** Nick & Joanna. [Isaiah, 5yr]
- C. **Slide12a** I just returned from a **CGN Leadership Conf** in Florida with Kelly. Where a few times the topic of *the Importance of Women in Leadership* came up. As we were discussing the importance of this I realized I've had this on my radar, **and** have been moving the needle for a few years now, **but** I haven't talked about it. **So I would like to briefly this morning.**
1. **The Church** for so long has had **a highly restrictive view** of women's involvement in the church (usually women's ministry & children's min).
- D. I've been most convicted about **Jesus' focus** on *viewing and valuing women*, **and giving women some of the most important roles**, **and that**, back in the 1st century. (i.e. Mary Mag/Easter Message).
1. Jesus's attitude toward women was His vision of them as **persons to whom and for whom** he had come. He did not perceive them primarily in terms of their **sex, age, or marital status**; He seems to have considered them in terms of **their relation to God**.
 2. **Jesus had such a countercultural view of women:** He demonstrated only the highest regard for women, in both His life and teaching. Jesus valued their **fellowship, prayers, service, financial support, testimony and witness**.
 3. **Slide12b Jesus protected women. Empowered women. Honored women publicly. Release the voice of women. Confided in women. Was funded by women. Celebrated women by name. Learn from women. Respected women. And spoke of women as examples to follow. Our turn!**
 4. **I believe** women can and should hold positions of **leadership** in the Church. The question for **many roles** should be **who is best for the job**,

regardless of gender. From a biblical perspective, I still believe a covering of male leadership in the church is required, thus I do not believe in women being senior pastors.

5. Our board is set up as a *Senior Pastor run advisory board*, rather than a governing board. Thus at the end of the day I carry the weight and responsibility of every decision, right or wrong.

6. I want to value & honor some of the women leaders at CM: Kel/womens, comm outreach, JM. Jessica over moms. Cheryl/graphic arts,web,app. Maddy/print. Jasmine/Children's church. Christy/principle day schl. Michelle/production director] + more

E. Jen Bursch is a leader at Calvary Murrieta. Jen is our Head of Schools and is on the School Board. Here at the Church, Jen is on the Board, and as CM's Executive Director she runs the day to day operations of the Church and helps chart the course for individual ministries. She oversees our facilities, our staff, and our finances. And is overseeing a remodel we are excited to share with you on Sun April 30. Please don't miss that Sunday. (we'll be talking/showing: the remodel, church finances, what we did with sale of the property finances, & your opportunity to be participate in the remodel)

1. When Jen began to work at the Church, it became so clear to me that she is so administratively gifted and more capable than anyone I have worked with in those areas. Over the last few years as we worked together and built trust, I was able to back out of the day-to-day running of the Church. And as Jen took over as in this position, she has done a far superior job then I ever could have.

2. I realized a few years ago that I needed to be able to focus on teaching, vision for CM, and all we are doing in Nepal. [I'm not a great in finances/administration]

II. Slide13 Intro: When Much Amounts to Little & Little Amounts to Much

A. **Outline:** 3 parts. **Christology** (theology *person, nature, and role* of Christ). **Hypocrisy. Generosity.**

III. Slide14 **CHRISTOLOGY (20:41-44)** **READ** [theology relating to the person, nature, & role of Christ]

A. His critics decided to ask no further questions, **so** Jesus took the offensive and **asked them a question**, about their designation of Messiah/Christ as the Son of David.

1. Jesus quotes the most frequently quoted OT scripture ... Ps.110:1.

B. **The answer, of course, is in the *Incarnation*.**

1. Everyone knew that Messiah would be through the line of David, Jer.23:5.

2. Jesus is both ***the root and offspring/fruit of David***. Rev 22:16

a) As ***the root of David***, He brought David into existence. **But** as ***the offspring of David***, David brought Him into the world.

b) He is David's **Son**, thus affirming his **humanity**. He is David's **Lord**, thus affirming His **deity**.

IV. Slide15 **HYPOCRISY (20:45-47)** **READ** ***Jesus denounces the Jewish Leaders***

A. Jesus moved from **doctrine** to **practice**, **and** publicly exposed the **hypocrisy** of the religious leaders.

1. **Here is religion at its worst**. These leaders were using their religion to **advance their own personal ambitions** **and** to **feed their pride**.

2. **Beware/watch out** - why? because they are self-serving.

a) It could even be a religious leader w/*good theology*, **but** if their life is all about ***self exaltation***, & are ***oppressing the vulnerable*** He says **stay away from them**

B. **Slide16 Their Pride (45–46)**

C. In their garments, their desire for greetings and compliments, **and** their quest for prominent places ... they proved themselves to be anything but servants.

1. **They loved their uniform** because ***it indicated their office*** wherever they went.

D. **Their Cruelty (47a)**

E. **They cheat widows out of their property.** They used religion to rob the needy and keep the money for themselves.

1. Did you know: When Jerusalem was sacked by the Romans legions, they found no less than **\$3 million** inside. G. Campbell Morgan, Luke, pg. 233

a) Maybe this is why *Jesus overturned the tables in the temple* both at the **beginning** and again at the **end** of His ministry.

F. **Their Hypocrisy** (47b)

G. They loved their uniform (**who like to walk around in long robes**).

They loved Popularity and Respect (**& love respectful greetings in the market places**)

They loved Leadership Preeminence (**and chief seats in the synagogues**).

They loved Power and Influence (**and places of honor at feasts**).

They loved Greedy Exploitation (**who devour widows' houses**).

They loved Pretentious Religious Practices (**for appearance's sake offer long prayers**)

H. **The inspiration of all their activity was self-centered.**

1. God is seeking **servants**, not **celebrities**. He sees **the heart**.

2. People who seem **too spiritual to be true** ... usually aren't.

I. **Their Punishment** (47c)

J. Their punishment will be great. What a *sober warning* Jesus ends with, *beware of those who love only the things that minister to themselves*.

V. **Slide17a GENEROSITY (21:1-4) READ The Appraiser** [1 who assess the monetary value of something]

A. Jesus now moves from talking about **fake religion** (hypocrisy), to a beautiful contrast with **true religion**.

B. *They didn't ignore widows, nor looked-over widows, they devoured* them.

C. The widow is given as a direct *contrast*. **There are 2000 vss about the poor.**

D. **Slide17b** Instead of the **smallest** of her gift, Jesus sees the **bigness** of her faith.

1. In this simple act she's not saving the world, **but** blessing the Lord.

E. *We sit safely behind all the excuses to not give to the poor. They're just going to spend my money on drugs and alcohol. Why don't they just get a job, etc. Ours is*

not to sit there and render judgment of how they got there, why they're there, and how to get out of there. We are called to have eyes for the poor. To honor them is to honor God.

Slide18a

- F. [1] The Disciples saw rich people giving, Jesus saw a poor widow sacrificing.
- G. What a sacrifice. I've been on the receiving end of sacrifice: *a fatted sheep in Etropole, Bulgaria killed for my supper. Fatted Pig in PI. Ceviche in Davao, PI Bajao/Sea Gypsies. Box of choc's & a stained embroidery taken rt off the wall in Ukraine.*
- H. *The religious leaders were interested in all they could **get** out of life. She was interested in what she could **give** in life.* Phillips, pg.246
- I. Slide18b [2] The Disciples saw Portions, Jesus saw Proportion.
- J. He noticed & appreciated her gift, not because of the **size** but because of her **generosity**.
- K. It's not just what we **give**, **but** what we **give** *in relation to what we have*.
1. **Illus:** It's the **difference** between handing out coats to the homeless that were donated. **Then**, running out when still one was needed, and you take off your brand new coat & hand it to him.
 2. Winston Churchill, "*We make a living by what we **get**, but we make a life by what we **give**.*"
 3. "*Will we continue to **toss crumbs** from our table to the poor, instead of giving them a seat at the table?*" Yonce Shelton
- L. Slide18c [3] The Disciples saw how much, Jesus saw how much was left.
- M. 3 diff Gk words: **poor** (needy poor, life's a struggle). **poor** (poor to the point of a beggar). **poverty** (destitute/what we would call today *abject poverty*).
1. **Abject Poverty** was 1st defined in 1995 by the United Nations, **abject poverty is the most severe form of deprivation to basic needs and services that an individual or household can suffer**. It is a form of poverty

where there is *a severe lack of food access, safe drinking water, basic sanitation, healthcare access, and even shelter*. Some definitions of abject poverty also include a *lack of educational resources or information as well*. [3 stats]

- a) Nearly **7 million** children under the age of **5** die every year, with most issues that caused their death being completely preventable.
- b) Children born in the world's poorest countries have a **1 in 6 chance of dying before they reach their 5th birthday**. In the U.S. the odds are closer to **1 in 165**.
- c) **The richest 85 people** in the world today **control the same amount of wealth as the poorest 50%** of the population.

N. **Slide18d [4] The Disciples saw it as the least, Jesus saw it as the most.**

O. Those who give “the widow’s mite” give their all, not their least.

P. **This is how many poor still live today.** Using all they have for the next 24 hours, to maintain life. **She gave hers to God.**

Q. **She put in more than all** - every one considered separately, she put in more than each.

R. **This is not possible mathematically, but it is spiritually. Why?** Because God has a way of taking **little things**, & making them **big things**: **eg.** 5 loaves & 2 fish.

Also 1 Kings 17:8-16 Elijah & the Widow. ***Bring me a little water in a vessel, that I may drink.” 11 And as she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, “Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand.” 12 And she said, “As the Lord your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of flour in a jar and a little oil in a jug. And now I am gathering a couple of sticks that I may go in and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it and die.” 13 And Elijah said to her, “Do not fear; go and do as you have said. But first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterward make something for yourself and your son. 14 For thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, ‘The jar of flour shall not be spent, and the jug of oil shall not be empty, until the day that the Lord sends rain upon the earth.*** [sounds like the widow here, 1st I’ll give to God, then ?]

S. **Slide18e [5] The Disciples saw people giving many things, Jesus saw a widow giving everything.**

T. It seems like she was *1 mite away from never being heard of!* She could have kept **one** back, but gave **both**.

1. She just showed us how to, *love the LORD your God with **all** our heart, with **all** our soul, with **all** our mind, and with **all** our strength.*
2. Paul said, *and though I bestow **all my goods** to feed the **poor**, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me **nothing**.* But if I give a penny w/this widow's heart, it is great gain to me and to God.

U. She dropped in far more than a copper coin. When she gave those 2 copper coins, she was giving **everything**. [this isn't a financial issue, it's an everything issue]

1. **Yes everything!** She had nothing to fall back on, nothing to rely on.
2. She gave her next meal, her next wardrobe, her next gift for a friend.
3. She has nothing left. No more resources. No more savings.
4. **Yet she gave it to the God of all creation.** This prompted the Almighty God of the universe to sit up and take notice.

V. **Slide19** Interesting on the copper coins/Lepton: **Obverse:** anchor upside-down in circle. **Reverse:** star of eight rays.

1. In Jesus' time in Judea, the small copper coin was called a **lepton**; there was no coin called by the English term "**mite**" at that time. However, there was a mite in the time of the creation of the *King James Bible*. (actually, in the earliest NT by William Tyndale in 1525)
 - a) A lepton (lepTOS) was the smallest and least valuable coin in circulation in Judea (Gk coin), worth about 6 minutes of an average daily wage.
 - b) Breaking forth through the dark, dreary, dullness of that day, **this widow** shines like rays of light, rays of beauty, rays of glory, to the anchor of her soul!

W. **Jesus was a people watcher.** But **not only** watching their **actions** but watching their **motives**.

1. The IRS really doesn't care what your **motive** is in giving to them, **but** God cares what your **motives** are.
2. Hannah said in her prayer in 1 Sam.2:3 *for the Lord is a God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed.*

- X. Slide20 Jesus teaching in the covered colonnade on the temple mount ... watching what people were giving. And knew exactly what each put in the *shofaroth*. (13 trumpet shaped brass receptacles were placed under the colonnades. Into which offerings were put towards temple expenses, & to meet the needs of the poor, aka Treasury)
1. Imagine many coins hitting the brass. It probably sounded like those coin counting machines in the supermarkets today.
 2. The Mishnah said each bore inscriptions designating what the offerings were for: "New Shekel dues", "Old Shekel dues", "Bird Offerings", "Young birds for the whole offering", "Wood", "Frankincense", "Gold for the Mercy-seat", & on 6 of them "Freewill-Offerings". (Shekalim XI.5)

- Y. What I **have**, He **claims**; what He **claims**, I **yield**;
 What I **yield**, He **takes**; what He **takes**, He **fills**;
 What He **fills**, He **uses**; what He **uses**, He **keeps**;
 What he **keeps**, He **satisfies**.

- Z. Keywords: generosity, messiah, Christ.