

The Widow's Offering

Mark 12:41-44

The Widow's Offering

- **There is so much to unpack in Mark's account of the widow and her offering (also found in Luke 21:1-4).**
- **This is a touching, memorable, and convicting event made all the more impactful because of Jesus' appreciation of it.**
- **Today, there are three spiritual observations to be made about this inspiring occasion.**
- **But, first, lets' explore the particulars of this story.**

The Widow's Offering

- **If you follow the sequence of Mark's narrative, then it likely occurred on the Tuesday of Jesus' last week.**
- **During that time, he had traveled back and forth each day between Bethany and Jerusalem.**
- **In Jerusalem, he would go to the Temple and teach. Most of his experiences would be very unsatisfying. But not this instance.**

The Widow's Offering

- *The widow challenges us to rethink our*

FAITH

- **1 Tim. 6:17**
- **She gave everything, all she had to live on.**
- **She went home not knowing from where her next meal would come.**
- **Or did she? Matt. 6:33.**

The Widow's Offering

- *The widow challenges us to rethink our*

PRIORITIES

- **God has to be first.**
- **We prioritize lots of things over God.**
- **He was not the last thing on her mind but the first.**
- **Seek first..... (Matt. 6:33)**

The Widow's Offering

- *The widow challenges us to rethink our*

GIVING

- Many rich people gave large sums out of their abundance.
- They put the money in what is described as the offering box (ESV).
 - Some have stated that there were several of these boxes which had lids with metal funnels on top.

The Widow's Offering

- *The widow challenges us to rethink our*

GIVING

- We need to remember two things....
 - Giving out of our abundance is not sacrificial giving. It may be cheerful to us but it is not pleasing to God. (II Cor. 9:7)
 - Giving out of our abundance carries with it the idea of protecting my comforts.

The Widow's Offering

- *The widow challenges us to rethink our*

GIVING

- In other words, I will give as long as my comforts are not put in jeopardy.
 - How comfortable do you think things were for this widow? (No money or husband)
- Who gets left out when the budget gets tight?
Who has to take a back seat to our indulgences?

The Widow's Offering

- **Conclusion:**

- **No, this widow caught Jesus' attention.**
- **In the barren wasteland of spirituality, she was the refreshing spring.**
- **Her dedication to Him would be repaid a few days later with his dedication to her.**