



WEEKLY STUDY

Jesus on Money - Week Five

The story of the widow's mite (Luke 21.1-4) is brief, but complex and its implications are key for every disciple of Jesus. What does it mean to give out of abundance? What does it mean to give sacrificially? Pastor Jacob posed this question: what can you give out of your pain, your poverty, your grief? In giving this way, we can know that, like the widow in Luke 21, we have Jesus' full attention. Through this story, I pray that you will find inspiration, not just to give more, but to give out of your deficits as well as your surplus.

Peace of Christ,
Pastor Mark Youngman

If you are studying with your Providence Small Group or Discipleship Group, you can share from your own daily reflections and consider the Group Discussion questions below. If you would like to get connected visit prov.church/smallgroups.

DAILY STUDY

MONDAY: LUKE 21.1-4 (ESV)

Jesus looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the offering box,² and he saw a poor widow put in two small copper coins.³ And he said, "Truly, I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them.⁴ For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on."

- Most people giving at the temple courts would want to be sure that everyone noticed their generous giving. The noise of the clanking coins in the offering receptacles would have been noticeable. The poor widow revealed a different way. What are the public places of offering in the world today? In what ways is your giving noisy? What helps you to keep your giving quiet?
-
-

-
-
- **Prayer Prompt: And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. (Ephesians 5.2)**
 - *God, I want my entire life to be a fragrant offering to you. Expose the motivation of my heart in giving to others. Allow me to give especially when I don't have much to give. Amen.*

TUESDAY: LUKE 21.1-4 (ESV)

- We have learned that the widow's mite was a *lepta*, the smallest coin minted, which was worth 1/8 of a cent, and 1/64 of a denarius (a day's wage). It was indeed a very small amount, but it was all she had. She may have been relying on that meager sum to survive the difficult realities of being a widow in her times. Surely she knew that her meager coins would not actually be enough to overcome the loss of her husband or her lowly place in society. So to most bystanders, the offering would remain insignificant, and altogether unnoticed. But not so with Jesus. He heard and he saw the gift offered up that day. What is the least amount of daily money you could imagine living off of? Are your ears tuned to hear the small gifts of others?
-
-
-
-

- **Prayer Prompt: Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God. (Hebrews 13.16)**
- *Jesus, I know of your sacrifice for me. It was the most significant event in all of history. And yet, not everyone has taken notice. Help me to see my giving in light of your sacrifice. Amen.*

WEDNESDAY: LUKE 21.1-4 (ESV)

- A true measure of the gift is the sacrifice involved. So when Jesus said that the widow's gift was worth more, he didn't mean that it could financially support more of the ministry of the temple, rather he noticed that it represented great spiritual value. Consider the treasure in your life, how does it represent God's faithfulness? How are the gifts you give made bigger because of their spiritual value?
-
-
-

-
- **Prayer Prompt: “Has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to listen than the fat of rams. (1 Samuel 15.22)**
 - *God, I want to live and give out of obedience to your invitation to follow Jesus. May my sacrifices draw me closer to him. Amen.*

THURSDAY: LUKE 21.1-4 (ESV)

- Who are some of the biggest givers nationally? How do you know about their giving? This is why Jesus previously noted that it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than a rich person to go to heaven. It is easier to notice the sacrifice when all you have is a fraction of a days wage. When was the last time you gave in such a way that you really felt it?
-
-
-
-

- **Prayer Prompt: Father of the fatherless and protector of widows is God in his holy habitation.**
**⁶God settles the solitary in a home;
he leads out the prisoners to prosperity,
but the rebellious dwell in a parched land. (Psalm 58.5-6)**
- *God, increase my faith through acts of generosity. My giving may not make a huge impact in the world me, may it impact me and deepen my awareness of my need for you. Amen.*

FRIDAY: LUKE 21.1-4 (ESV)

- Compare the poor widow to [the ones who were asking about taxes paid to Rome](#), or [the rich young ruler](#) who couldn't comprehend the life that Jesus was inviting him into. Most who were asking Jesus about money were those who had something to lose. They wanted Jesus to give answers that fit into their way of life—their comfort. The widow didn't even find it necessary to have a conversation, she just did the faithful thing and Jesus noticed her gift. It can be easy to blame others for our financial woes, or to look with suspicion on the motives of those around us. In what ways do your financial choices and your generosity reflect the generosity of God?
-
-
-

-
- **Prayer Prompt: Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. (2 Corinthians 9.7)**
 - *God, I know what it means to have plenty and I know what it means to live in scarcity. Keep me faithful in every season to give out of response to your most precious gift to me. Amen.*

SATURDAY: LUKE 21.1-4 (ESV)

- We can't walk in every person's shoes, but we can relate to the plight of the widow. When we walk with someone else through their poverty, we begin to see the world as Jesus does. If you've ever walked with a person through a season of poverty, you may have noticed that there is a deeper joy and contentment to be found. They tend to be the joyful and not reluctant givers. If you yourself are not currently experiencing any kind of poverty, how will you be generous with your time and resources this week? Ask God to give you eyes to see true faithfulness among the poor and lonely.
-
-
-
-

- **Prayer Prompt: For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich. (2 Corinthians 8.9)**
- *God, open my eyes to see the pockets of faithfulness in the world around me. Increase my awareness of Kingdom acts of generosity. Amen.*

GROUP DISCUSSION

You probably have quite a bit in common with the other members of your small group or discipleship group. And there is probably a long list of differences. The thing that all of us have in common is pain, need and loss. Each of these is a kind of poverty. At some point along the road, we have or will have an experience of pain. The story in Luke 21.1-4 is an example of giving faithfully out of our poverty.

- Can you think of a time when you gave out of some kind of poverty? Have you received out of someone else's poverty?
- Who are the people around you who seem to give out of their poverty? How does the world see them? Does the world see them?
- Think of a time when you thought you were on *empty*. Did you find it difficult to think of giving instead of receiving? How does Jesus meet us in our times of empty?