

MAIN POINT

God calls us to give not out of abundance, but out of gratitude.

INTRODUCTION

Which of the following best describes your parent's perspective on money? **1)** Money is the root of all evil; **2)** A successful person makes six figures; **3)** Money gives you a sense of security; **4)** People make money so they can help the poor and tithe regularly.

How do you think your parents' perspective on money has affected yours?

In today's passage, Jesus saw different people giving at the temple. First, He noticed the rich who put their money in the offering box. He then noticed a widow who gave two coins worth a typical day's wage. Jesus commended the widow for her generosity but not the wealthy, even though they gave more monetarily. The value of the widow's gift was based on its sacrificial merit. The widow gave everything, even though it was little. Her faith in God gave her the confidence to give everything, as she trusted that God would care for her needs.

DISCUSSION

> **READ MARK 12:41-44.**

Why did Jesus commend the widow? How much did she give?

What excuses could the widow have made for not giving anything?

Did Jesus's commendation of the widow imply anything about His view of the gifts by the rich? If so, what?

How did the widow display a form of wealth that the rich didn't have?

When you give, do you ask, "How much should I give?" Or, "How much should I keep for myself and those dependent on me?"

How might these different perspectives impact your giving?

If you had to summarize Jesus's teaching regarding giving in one statement, what would it be?

Are there any public displays of faith you practice insincerely? In light of Jesus's warning in this passage, what do you think you should do?

What are you sacrificing when you give to the church or other charitable organizations?

How can we encourage one another to be authentic in our faith and sacrificial in our giving?

How does the story of the widow point you to Jesus?

APPLICATION

The sacrificial gift of the widow points to the sacrificial gift of Jesus. She gave her entire livelihood; He gave His very life. How will you respond based on your gratitude?