



## **Growth Group Discussion Guide**

Passage: Mark 12:41-44

**Introduction:** In this passage Jesus observes a great contrast between those placing money into the offering boxes of the Temple treasury. The rich give large sums of money while a poor widow gives next to nothing. Jesus gathers his disciples and teaches them that in fact, “this poor widow has put in more than all”. Ultimately this passage challenges us to reflect on what our giving reveals about our heart’s true devotion and what it means to love God with our whole lives.



### **Into the Word**

*“They gave out of their abundance but she out of her poverty.” - Mark 12:44*

How are the rich and the widow different in this situation? (v. 44)

What may have motivated the rich to give? What may have motivated the poor widow?

*Note: The “offering box” was a “Shofar-chest,”; large, metal, trumpet-shaped receptacles designed to reverberate the sound of coins dropping.*

What does Jesus’ teaching reveal about God’s heart? Why does Jesus want his disciples to understand this aspect of God’s character? (v. 43)

Consider: 1 Samuel 16:7, Job 34:19

**Read - ESV Study Bible Giving Chart (Study Notes).** Which guidelines for giving do you find the most helpful? Which do you find the most challenging?



### **Into the Heart**

*“Though Christ was rich, yet for our sake he became poor, so that we by his poverty might become rich.” - 2 Corinthians 8:9*

**“Our money flows effortlessly toward that which we love.”** Do you agree?

Why or Why Not? What can our budget teach us about our hearts?

Consider: Matthew 6:21,24

**Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-9.** How is true generosity cultivated in our hearts?

Note: Notice Paul’s emphasis on grace not guilt.



### **Into the World**

*“Present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.” - Romans 12:1*

What opportunities do we have to be generous with others for the Lord’s sake?

Note: Remember, God doesn’t care about the amount - he cares about our hearts.

What might we need to sacrifice in order to fully participate in these opportunities.