

Mark 12:38-44

³⁸As he taught, he said, "Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, ³⁹and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets!

⁴⁰They devour widows' houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation."

⁴¹He sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. ⁴²A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. ⁴³Then he called his disciples and said to them, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. ⁴⁴For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on."

REFLECT & DISCUSS

Context

Jesus continues to embody the extravagant and life-giving friendship of God. He does so by lifting up the gifts of the "unlikely." Last week it was a child's gift for the hungry crowd in John 6:1-13. This week it is a poor widow in t.

Big Ideas

- The faithful widow is an example of faithfulness despite a broken system

- In God's economy, we are not defined by our lack, but our gifts
- In God's kingdom, the poor (and widowed) are cared for and not exploited

Reflect

1. Read the scripture passage carefully and slowly. What word or image stands out to you? Why?
2. Do you think the gift of the widow was a good thing or a bad thing? Why?
3. In what ways are we called, as a spiritual community, to raise up and support the poor (and widowed)?
4. How does the widow's gift challenge you and your sense of generosity?
5. "The poor" are often stigmatized as helpless, lazy, undeserving, unable, so on and so forth... how does this picture of a poor widow upend these stereotypes?