

Jesus—Mark 12:41-44; Luke 21:1-4; John 12:20-50

The Widow on Giving; Jesus Speaks

I. Additional Scriptures/Notes...

1. **Mark 12:41...** “Treasury. [Mar 12:41](#); [Luk 21:1](#). A name, given by the rabbins to thirteen chests in the Temple, called trumpets from their shape. They stood in the court of the women. It would seem, probable, that this court was sometimes itself called "the treasury," because it contained these repositories.” [*Smith’s Bible Dictionary*]. ||| “Nine were for the receipt of what was legally due by worshippers, the other four for strictly voluntary gifts” [*Vincent’s Word Studies*].
2. **Mark 12:42...** MITES--“Contraction of minute, from the Latin *minutum*, the translation of the Greek word *lepton*, the very smallest bronze or copper coin ([Luk 12:59](#); [Luk 21:2](#)).” [Easton, *Illustrated Bible Dictionary*].
3. **John 12:20-21...** “This, incidentally, is one of the first indications of interest on the part of non-Jews in the teaching of the Lord, a concern which eventually was to sweep over the entire Gentile world as a mighty river, bringing salvation to uncounted multitudes of people then in the morass of paganism” [Guy N. Woods, *A Commentary on the Gospel According to John*, p. 262].
4. **John 12:23...** “Answered whom? Philip and Andrew only? The two disciples, plus the multitude? The disciples, the multitude and the Greeks? It is not possible to know. ...it seems in order to assume that the request was granted as in the case of Nicodemus (John 3:1ff), and that they were present when the words of this section were uttered” [Ibid, p. 263].
5. **John 12:24...** “These words were uttered by the Lord to illustrate the fact that only through death could his work be consummated and glory come” [Ibid, p. 264].
6. **John 12:28...** There are two other recorded instances in the life of Christ when the Father spoke audibly from heaven (Mt 3:13-17; Mt 17:5).
7. **John 12:31...** “Repetition of the word ‘now’ emphasizes that the events described were on the verge of occurring. ... The meaning is, There is now coming the time of decision, the crisis, when the rightful ruler of this world is to be determined. ... Satan’s reign began to decline at Calvary and it will be totally terminated at the end of the age” [Woods, p. 267].
8. **John 12:47...** “The word ‘hear’ as used here signifies perception without moral awakening and is thus the equivalent of not believing, the words, ‘and keep them not,’ being explanatory of this” [Woods, p. 276].

II. Chronology.

BIBLE PERIOD: **The Period of the Christ.**

III. Summary.

In the Mark and Luke texts Jesus beheld how the people cast money into the treasury. He remarked to His disciples that the poor widow put in more than all of the others because what she put in was a true sacrifice; it was all that she had. Evidently, our Lord wanted to impress upon the minds of His disciples (and us) an important element in our giving: that it needs to be sacrificial. I’ve heard it stated from many faithful preachers that Jesus had more to say about man and his relationship to money/possessions than almost any other subject. In the text from John, we are told about some Greeks wishing to see Jesus. Jesus begins to talk about His own

approaching death and the purpose of it. A response from the people caused Jesus to tell them to walk while they have the Light (meaning His own presence), and that they should believe in Him. Two statements from Isaiah are cited as applicable to these people. There were many among the chief rulers who believed in Jesus, but they would not confess Him because they loved the praises of men more than the praise of God. Jesus makes another claim to His deity. He also plainly states that that upon which everyone will be judged will be His own word. The words of Jesus are the words of the Father.

IV. Outline.

1. The widow’s mites (Mk 12:41-44; Lk 21:1-4).
2. Some Greeks desire to see Jesus (Jn 12:20-26).
3. The Son of Man must be lifted up (Jn 12:27-36).
4. The unbelief of the Jews (Jn 12:37-43).
5. Judgment will be based upon Jesus’ words—thus the New Testament (Jn 12:44-50).

V. Questions.

True or False

01. _____ The Father gave Jesus commandment what He should say.
02. _____ Some people thought that the voice from God was thunder.
03. _____ Many of the chief rulers believed on Jesus.
04. _____ It is uncertain what will be the basis of the judgment of our eternal destinies.
05. _____ Many that were rich cast in much into the temple treasury.

Matching

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 06. _____ “Sir, we would see Jesus.” | A. The widow. |
| 07. _____ Told Andrew. | B. Scribes |
| 08. _____ Cast in all that she had. | C. Certain Greeks |
| 09. _____ Hid. | D. Jesus |
| 10. _____ Loved the praise of men. | E. Philip |
| | F. Chief Rulers |

Fill in the Blanks

11. “And he that _____ me _____ him that sent me.”
12. “...because of the _____ they did not _____ him lest they should be put out of the synagogue.”
13. _____ 12:59—“I tell thee, thou shalt not depart thence, till thou hast paid the very last _____.”
14. “And there were certain _____ among them that came up to _____ at the _____.”
15. “...and she threw in _____ which make a farthing.”

Each Question is worth 7 Points

My Score is: _____

Answers will be found on next week’s handout

ANSWERS to Lesson 01-91 ... [01—False, Mt 23:13; 02—True, Mt 23:6; 03—False, Mt 23:36; 04—True, Mt 23:30; 05—False, Mt 23:23d; 06—Scribes & Pharisees, Mt 23:28; 07—Jesus, Mt 23:19; 08—servants, Mt 23:11; 09—converts of the scribes & Pharisees, Mt 23:15; 10—Jesus, Mt 23:37; 11—scribes, Pharisees, Mt 23:2; 12—masters, master, Mt 23:10; 13—blind, gnat, camel, Mt 23:24; 14—serpents, vipers, damnation, hell, Mt 23:33; 15—this, generation, Mt 23:36.]

VI. Lessons & Applications.

1. **And he called unto him his disciples, and saith unto them, ...** (Mk 12:43). For three years and more Jesus had been teaching His disciples. He is near the time of His crucifixion, but is yet teaching them. As He observed the action of the poor widow and the rich folks at the treasury, He thought of those who would continue His work after His ascension back to the Father and called them forth. It must be an important matter that Jesus would make this effort to draw the attention of His disciples to it. What lesson does it teach us? This woman's **generosity** contrasted so **strongly** with the people who "cast in of their abundance" (v. 44). She was demonstrating her love in the gift that she gave. The Apostle Paul teaches saints at Corinth that this "grace" the poor widow demonstrated is, in itself, a demonstration or proof of our love (2 Cor 8:9).
2. **The same came therefore to Philip, which was of Bethsaida of Galilee, and desired him, saying, Sir, we would see Jesus** (John 12:21). This might tell us something about personal evangelism if we look closely at it. These folks of a GREEK background came to Philip, who has a name that is GREEK and wanted him to introduce them to Jesus Christ. Philip's home was an area which provided much opportunity to mix and mingle with Greek people. Why did not these Greeks go to Simon Peter to get an introduction to Jesus? After all were not Peter, James, and John often invited to be with Jesus when others were not included (Mt 17:1; 26:37; Mk 5:37). These Greek people chose to go to someone of similar background to inquire about Jesus. There was something that identified these individuals with Philip. The same is true of whoever we are and of the people who are of similar background to us. With whom should we be most successful in introducing Jesus Christ? I believe we miss a great opportunity many times when we "write off" (exclude as prospects) the folks we know and have known for many years by saying to ourselves—"they wouldn't be interested"!!!
3. **If any man serve me, let him follow me; ...** (Jn 12:26). Jesus takes the opportunity of speaking to these Greek enquirers to emphasize three basics of His teaching ministry: (1) Following Jesus means service; (2) Jesus is the Authority (LET HIM FOLLOW ME); (3) There is great reward for following Christ.
4. **...But for this cause came I unto this hour. Father, glorify thy name** (Jn 12:27-28). The suffering Jesus was about to endure, which would provide salvation for lost souls, completing the Abrahamic promise (i.e., the scheme of redemption), had a grand purpose: TO GLORIFY GOD (cf., John 17:4).
5. **...Now shall the prince of this world be cast out** (John 12:31). The moments that are drawing very near are EXTREMELY important to mankind! Jesus came to this world to destroy the works of the devil (1 Jn 3:8). He came to destroy the devil (Heb 2:13-14). Satan is defeated on the cross (Col 1:13-14). It can truly be said that, because of the cross, neither Satan nor anyone else has the power to make us sin and be lost (1 Cor 10:13).
6. **And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me** (John 12:32). Concerning the salvation of lost souls, it seems that brethren today need this text as a reminder of what is the true DRAWING POWER. The preaching of the gospel: the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ is that drawing power. When we get away from that drawing power by attempting to use various gimmicks picked up after the denominations have long since thrown them away, we surely do err from the truth. Anyone who can be attracted by some gimmick will easily be won away from us by someone with just a bit more enticing gimmick.
7. **...they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God** (John 12:43). It is incredible that such could be possible, but we see it all the time even today.

VII. Seek-A-Word Puzzle.

P O I U Y T R R E W Q L K H G F D S A M
 N B V C X Z P O I U C A S T M O N E Y R
 F V B G T Y H N M E U J M K I O L P I K
 M J U Y H N B G C H B G T R F V C D E W
 S X C Z A Q W N C E D C V F R T G B N H
 Y U J M I O A U T G B V F R E D C X S W
 Q A Z X C D M V F C R T G B N H Y U J M
 L K J J N N H G A P F D S A M N B V C X
 R C D U I R F S V O B G Y T Y H N M J U
 I I B T T G T B V O E D C R W S X C Z M
 C A S V B M G T Y R H N M J U N H Y T G
 H A V D O E W Q A W A N T A Z S X S W E
 C T G R B N H Y U I I K M Y T G A R F V
 C D E E W S X C D D R F V B G T Y E U J
 N I H Y T G B T W O M I T E S E D C R W
 N C D E R F V B G W T Y H N M J U I O T
 E D C V F R T G B N A B G T Y H N M W S
 L K J H G F D S A M V L C X Z P O I Y T
 E R D I S C I P L E S T L I V I N G B G
 T Y H N M J U Y R F V C E W Q A Z D R L

[The highlighted words can be found above. They may be backwards, diagonal, upside down, etc. See if you can find them all. The more you use the words of the Bible, the greater blessed you will be! You might be surprised at how much this little exercise will help you retain important truths. THANK YOU for the good effort you are putting forth in Bible study. DRL]

Mark 12:41-44... ⁴¹And Jesus sat over against the **treasury**, and beheld how the people **cast money** into the treasury: and many that were **rich cast in much**. ⁴²And there came a certain **poor widow**, and she threw in **two mites**, which make a farthing.

⁴³And he called *unto him* his **disciples**, and saith unto them, **Verily I say unto you, That this poor widow hath cast more in, than all they which have cast into the treasury:**

⁴⁴**For all they did cast in of their abundance; but she of her want did cast in all that she had, even all her living.**