

## The Widow's Offering

Jesus was interested in one major thing that we should all know in our minds and in our hearts. He was concerned with the souls of all men. Jesus knew how hard it was for people to give up their way of life and follow him. He also knew that people had real trouble giving an offering for the work of the Lord. He and his disciples were in the temple courtyard watching people. The people would come into the courtyard and put their offerings in a container. Women were only allowed to go so far, they could not enter into the main temple. So, when this widow went up to the trumpet shaped offering container, he took the opportunity to share this message with his disciples.

He told his disciples to look at what was happening. Rich men were coming up and throwing coins into the container. The coins made great noise and made people look to see who was making such a big contribution. The widow very quietly went up and put two small value coins into the container and without notice walked away.

This is what he said to his disciples. "I tell you the truth, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything – all she had to live on."

### Question Time:

1. This is a math problem. If a rich man has \$1000 and throws \$10 in coins into the container and the widow has only \$2 and throws it all into the container, who gave more? The widow gave more because she gave all she had and the rich person only gave a small portion of what he owned.
2. Back in the time of Jesus there were no televisions, no video games and no electric lights. So, the richest man in the world back then was poor by today's standards of living. Would you give up TV, video games and electric lights for God?
3. Should we make a big deal out of our contribution or do it in a quiet way?

**Scripture: Mark 12: 41 - 44**

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<sup>41</sup> Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. <sup>42</sup> But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a few cents.

<sup>43</sup> Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. <sup>44</sup> They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on."

**Next Steps:** Talk to your parents about how much to give to the Church for the work of the Lord. Set it aside each week and give it quietly.