



Near and Now

When I am Called in the Ordinary – Widow and her two coins
By Amanda McVann

Warm-up Question

When have you been challenged to be generous – whether with your time, resources, or finances?

Maybe spending time with someone in a lengthy conversation, or serving in an understaffed ministry, or donating to a charitable cause?



Photo by Connor Hall on [Unsplash](#)

Discussion Questions

1. What do you see in this image?
2. What do you feel looking at this image?
3. What stories from your own life does this image bring to mind?
4. What stories of the world does this image bring to mind?

She...has put in everything she had

Read [Mark 12:41-44](#)

Bible Story Reflection

An aspect of Jesus' ministry that is truly remarkable is how much time he spent observing the everyday lives of people. Rather than being sequestered away and spending most of his time in rabbinic debate and discourse with educated, religious elites, Jesus worked a regular job while doing so – he knew what it was like to have to earn one's food each day. Thus, he knew the daily struggles of the people he ministered to, prayed over, and dined with.

Likewise, Jesus is watching the comings and goings of people as they leave their donations for the temple treasury. He watches closely as the rich come with the abundant large sums, making sure that they – and their donations – are properly seen. But Jesus' eye is tuned in to more than meets the surface; he sees the true intentions of their hearts and the poverty that lies within them.

Suddenly, a poor widow with only two coins places her offering and humbly moves on – but her story, her faith is forever etched into the history of scripture. For Jesus saw her abundant faith and trust in God and remarked that what she gave that day would overflow more than one treasury could contain: she gave out of the depths of her very being knowing and trusting that God would make a way.

Likewise, God sees into our hearts each and every day; God knows what lies beneath the surface that we try to hide from others. Rather than scare, may it comfort us to know that our comings and goings, our everyday ups and downs, our hopes and fears, and in all we hope to achieve in this life is seen, known, and honored by a God who loves us.

Discussion Questions

1. When have you seen extraordinary acts of self-sacrifice?
2. When have you given outside of your means?
3. What impresses Jesus about the widow?
4. Why does Jesus not comment on the rich who donate to the treasury?
5. What are you able to give out of abundance in this season?
6. What does it mean for you to give everything you have to God?
7. How might you live differently if you knew God would always provide?
8. How might the world act differently if it honored the poor?

Activity Suggestions

Think of ways to be generous this week – whether with your talents, money, resources, or time – especially in ways that others won't notice.

Describe a time when you took a risk of faith where the outcome was uncertain but you trusted God.

Spend time in prayer for the poor and disenfranchised within your local community. Afterward, think of ways to serve their needs either individually or as a part of a group. *For example: donate your time or resources to a local charity or organization that serves this population.*

Prayer Concerns

To those who want to give everything they have to God; to those who eagerly await for God to provide for them; to those who desire for a renewed, trusting heart in God.

Closing Prayer

Help me, O God, to be all in as your disciple today. In the name of +Jesus, Amen.

