

Second week of February
The Heart that Gives Generously

- **Text:** Mark 12:41~44 (February 7)
- **Bottom line:** God looks at the heart and attitude of the person who gives the offering.

≡ **1. Praise**

(Hymn 50) All I Have

≡ **2. Prayer**

Thank you, God for always giving us grace. Through today's worship service, let us remember and count each and every grace that You has bestowed upon us.

≡ **3. Word**

Read Mark 12:41~44 together (read the verse 3 times).

* Reading the Word over and over again in different translations will help you to deepen your understanding of the passage.

<ESV>

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

<NASB>

⁴¹ And *Jesus* sat down opposite the treasury, and *began* watching how the people were putting money into the treasury; and many rich people were putting in large amounts. ⁴² And a poor widow came and put in two lepta coins, which amount to a quadrans. ⁴³ Calling His disciples to Him, He said to them, "Truly I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all the contributors to the treasury; ⁴⁴ for they all put in out of their surplus, but she, out of her poverty, put in all she owned, all she had to live on."

<Word Explanation>

- * Widow: A woman whose husband has died.
- * lepta: The smallest unit of money used in Greece
- * quadrans: The smallest coin used in Rome, twice the lepta

Text Understanding

As Jesus watched the people in the temple court put their offerings into the treasury box, He said something that turned everyone's thoughts upside down. According to Jesus, the widow who put in a small number of coins donated more than the rich man who donated a lot of money. Jesus commended the widow's offering because she gave it with all her heart.

Understanding the text for leaders

Temple offerings are made to repair the temple or to relieve the poor. At that time, people judged the amount of money they gave, but Jesus said that the two lepta coins given by the poor widow were the biggest. At that time, a lepta was 1/128th of a denarius, or 1/2 of a quadrans. So the two lepta coins that the widow gave were one quadrans, or sixty-fourth of a denarius.

A denarius was a worker's daily wage at that time, and at today's value, two lepta coins are worth about 1,000 won. Jesus knew that the poor widow had a bigger heart when she gave than the rich man when he gave his offering. That is why God praised the widow who gave her all, looking only at God, instead of the rich man who gave his offering with a hypocritical heart, hoping for the praise of others. The world speaks with what we can see, but God speaks to us through our invisible hearts.

4. Sharing

1) Why did Jesus say that the poor widow's offering was greater than the rich man's? (verse 44).

Upper grades

Who did Jesus say gave more? Why? (verse 44).

Lower grades

Whom did Jesus commend as He watched the people giving? (verse 44).

Question Guide

People look at the amount of money they can see, but Jesus looks at the heart of the person he can't see.

Comments for Leaders

At that time, the money was used to help a neighbor in need, but a poor widow who needed help gave the donation to help someone. And although the amount was less than that of the rich man, Jesus praised the woman who gave her all as the largest. Jesus looks not at the amount of the offering, but at the heart of the person who gives the offering.

2) What do you think about the most when you donate? What kind of heart does it take to live a life of giving that the Lord is pleased to accept, like a poor widow?

Upper grades

What are the types of offerings that I can make to God that I can prepare and give to Him?

Lower grades

Talk about what you would look like when you give in worship.

Question Guide

Giving is not a time to give money to God, but a time to give our faith. We need to remember that giving is not to the church building, but to God.

Comments for Leaders

A poor widow grew up believing that God was in charge of her life and having compassion for those who needed more than she did, she gave everything she had to God. Think about what kind of heart and attitude you have had when you have given your offerings so far. Then share what kind of heart and attitude you should have in your future offerings.

≡ 5. Thanks

Confess what your family has received through God's grace.

≡ 6. Prayer

God! It is You who have given us everything we enjoy. Thank You for the grace you have given us, and give us a heart that allows us to give generously for the sake of God's kingdom. Let us know more about the joy of sharing for others than the joy we accumulate for ourselves.

- End the family worship service with the "The Lord's Prayer"

≡ 7. Family Mission

Spend a week writing a thank you note, choosing an amount of money for the items you're grateful for, and giving it to someone in need.

Tip. You can bring cash to share, or if you need comfort and encouragement, you can bring gifts.

<Thank you note for my family> *What to bring: Thin notebook, writing utensils, and a compliment gift

1. Each of us confesses what we are grateful for.
2. Keep a notebook on your living room table or dining room table and write down what you're grateful for from time to time throughout the week.
3. Encourage them to write down at least three things each day.
4. A week later, we select our home gratitude captain to give them a gift of praise, and we collect and share our family's gratitude subjects.
5. Set the amount of donations according to the items you are grateful for, and discuss with whom and how to give them.

Count the grace God has given you and express your gratitude. Give a thankful offering and talk specifically about how God will work through it.
