



Summary

In Mark 12:38-44, Jesus contrasts the hypocritical scribes with a humble widow who gives all she has. This passage challenges us to reflect on our own generosity and the true nature of giving. The widow's small offering, given out of poverty, demonstrates immense faith and sacrificial giving. We are encouraged to embrace extravagant generosity, reflecting God's nature, and to give cheerfully and responsibly, as taught by John Wesley.

Key Verses

1. Mark 12:38-44
2. John 3:16
3. 2 Corinthians 9:7
4. 1 Timothy 6:18

Reflection Questions

1. What motivates my giving? Am I seeking recognition, or am I giving out of genuine love and faith?
2. How can I give more sacrificially?
3. What changes can I make to ensure my giving reflects true trust in God's provision?
4. Am I a cheerful giver? Do I find joy in giving, or do I feel obligated and reluctant?

Key Takeaways

1. True generosity is measured by the heart and sacrifice, not the amount given.

2. God's nature is inherently generous, and we are called to reflect that in our lives.
3. Giving is an act of faith and trust in God's provision.
4. Our relationship with money should align with our faith and values.
5. Generosity is a key aspect of living out our faith and partnering with God's mission.

5 Day Devotional

Day 1: The Heart of Generosity

Devotional In Mark 12:38-44, Jesus contrasts the behavior of the scribes with that of a humble widow. The scribes seek honor and exploit the vulnerable, while the widow gives two small copper coins, an act celebrated by Jesus for its immense spiritual significance. Her offering, though small in monetary value, exemplifies complete trust in God's provision and sacrificial giving. This passage encourages us to embrace extravagant generosity, reflecting God's nature. As we begin this devotional journey, let's focus on the heart of generosity. God, in His very nature, is generous and loving, kind. He has placed that same heart in us, made us to be people who want to give, who need to give. Let's strive to give sacrificially, joyfully, and with a heart full of faith.

Bible Verse For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. - John 3:16

Reflection Question How can you reflect God's generous nature in your daily life?

Quote God, in His very nature, is generous and loving, kind.

Prayer Lord, help me to embrace a heart of generosity. Teach me to give sacrificially and joyfully, trusting in Your provision. Amen.

Day 2: Trusting in God's Provision

Devotional The widow in Mark 12:38-44 had a sure faith in God. She trusted that no matter what, God would take care of her. This kind of faith is challenging, especially in a world that teaches us to be self-reliant and anxious about our needs. However, true generosity stems from a deep trust in God's provision. When we give, we are not just parting with our resources; we are making a statement of faith that God will provide for us. Reflect on the widow's trust and consider how you can cultivate a similar faith in your own life.

Bible Verse Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, 'Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others.' - Mark 12:43

Reflection Question What steps can you take to deepen your trust in God's provision?

Quote This morning, the widow in our scripture has a sure faith in God. She, this widow that we just read about in Mark's gospel, has this pure trust that no matter what God, God would take care of her.

Prayer Heavenly Father, strengthen my faith in Your provision. Help me to trust You more each day and to give generously, knowing that You will take care of all my needs. Amen.

Day 3: The Joy of Giving

Devotional Giving should stem from joy and gratitude, transforming it into a joyful act of worship rather than a burdensome duty. The widow's offering was small in monetary value but immense in spiritual significance because it came from a place of joy and trust in God. When we give joyfully, we reflect God's generous nature and experience the true joy that comes from serving others. Consider how you can make your giving a joyful act of worship, filled with gratitude for all that God has done for you.

Bible Verse For they all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on. - Mark 12:44

Reflection Question How can you transform your giving into a joyful act of worship?

Quote Giving helps us become who God wants us to be. Giving of our time, of our talent, of our treasure, is how we love and serve God.

Prayer Lord, fill my heart with joy and gratitude as I give. Help me to see my giving as an act of worship and a reflection of Your love. Amen.

Day 4: Balanced Financial Stewardship

Devotional John Wesley's teachings on financial stewardship—'Make all you can, save all you can, give all you can'—emphasize the importance of balanced financial practices that honor God. We work hard to make money, but we must also work hard at sharing our resources. The downfall of so many religious people is to make and to save, to create luxuries for ourselves rather than offering the opportunity to create for God His kingdom more fully. Reflect on your financial practices and consider how you can balance making, saving, and giving in a way that honors God.

Bible Verse For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. - John 3:16

Reflection Question How can you balance making, saving, and giving in a way that honors God?

Quote Make all you can. Also save all you can so that you can especially know you're not spending your resources in ways that make you sin or that would make your children sin. And then give all you can.

Prayer Lord, guide me in my financial practices. Help me to make, save, and give in a way that honors You and furthers Your kingdom. Amen.

Day 5: Generosity as a Reflection of God's Love

Devotional One of the evidences of our love of God is seen in our generosity. It is through giving, giving of himself, giving of his own son, that God shows His love for us. We give because we look around and realize God didn't create us to live for ourselves. God created us to be His children who see that we are created by God and so is our neighbor. Reflect on how your generosity can be a reflection of God's love to those around you. Consider how you can give sacrificially, joyfully, and with a heart full of faith, just as the widow did.

Bible Verse For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. - John 3:16

Reflection Question How can your generosity reflect God's love to those around you?

Quote One of the evidences of our love of God is seen in our generosity.

Prayer Heavenly Father, help me to reflect Your love through my generosity. Teach me to give sacrificially and joyfully, and to see my neighbor as Your creation. Amen.