

Unit 12

Peak University Study Guide
FAITH: GIVING FROM THE HEART
Mark 12:41-44

Open with Praise Time: *“Lordship of Christ”* – In what ways were you able to give generously from the heart this week?

Scripture: Mark 12:41-44

LESSON PLAN



Connect: an opportunity for people to immediately interact and connect with each other; icebreaker/attention getters. (*Read the following poem.*)

Three Dollars Worth of God


I would like to buy \$3 worth of God, please.
Not enough to explode my soul or disturb my sleep,
but just enough to equal a cup of warm milk
or a snooze in the sunshine.
I don't want enough of God to make me love a black man
or pick beets with a migrant.
I want ecstasy, not transformation.
I want warmth of the womb, not a new birth.
I want a pound of the Eternal in a paper sack.
I would like to buy \$3 worth of God, please.
— Wilbur Rees

Ask: How did that make you feel? Does it create any soul searching within you?

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| Transition: How many of us want to spend every dime we possess on our Lord? |
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The Bottom Line: Jesus teaches us to give from the heart, the center of our emotions.

Today we are going to let Jesus give us a heart check-up.

 **Apply:** application ideas for both individual and family. (*Choose the applications you feel best apply the Bottom Line.*)

Read Mark 12:41-44

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Jesus praises this poor woman for her great sacrifice. However, there may be more to this than meets the eye. Both Mark and Luke put it in a context that gives us tremendous insight.

Read Mark 12:38-40

1. What has Jesus just told about the Pharisees?



Does the church ever place such a high priority on carrying out religion that we ignore or take advantage of the poor among us?

2. Where does Jesus sit and what is He doing there?
3. What does the poor widow drop in the offering?



How easy is it to compromise giving your first fruits, your best to the Lord? What are some of the excuses we make to feel good about not sharing financially in God's work?

4. Remember Jesus has been watching this entire event unfold. He has seen the rich people throwing in their money in amounts that would not affect their lifestyle. He has seen the widow who has a different story to live out. After the poor widow drops in her offering, what does Jesus do?
5. What analogy does Jesus use to prove she was the biggest contributor today?
6. Exactly what was the proportion this woman gave?



Why do you think most Christian people don't live with the same hunger to give to the Lord's work?

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What do you think would happen to the hand of God at Pikes Peak Christian Church if we began to look seriously at this lesson that got Jesus excited enough to tell His disciples and to have it recorded for all of human history to see?



Interactive Teaching Ideas: ideas for learner-focused teaching. God is *(Have the people break into four or five groups. Give them about 10 minutes, and then have them report their ideas.)*

At each table, reconstruct today's story into a modern parallel. Take about 10 minutes and then have one person from each table tell their story.

**CARING TIME: SHARE AND PRAY**

Share the bottom line: "Lordship of Christ" – Thank God for what He has given you and for what your offerings are doing in God's hands.

Prayer: Ask God to help you give from the heart.