

A Poor Woman's Gift *based on Mark 12:38-44*

“Look at me,” said the rich man. “See how much money I am giving to God!”

The man put a big bag of gold coins into the box.

Jesus and his friends were watching. They were sitting in the temple, where there were boxes for people to put money into. The money was to pay for things in the temple, such as fixing the walls or buying food for the people who worked there.

Jesus was glad people gave money to the temple. But Jesus didn't like the way some people bragged about how much they gave.

“I'm giving even more money than that!” said another rich man as he put a bigger bag of money into the box. Jesus shook his head. He was sad.

Then a very poor woman came by – a woman who didn't have any family. All she had was two tiny lit-tle coins. When she thought nobody was looking, she put them into the money boxes.

“Look,” Jesus said to his friends. “She gave the biggest gift of all!”

“But all she put in was two tiny little coins,” said Jesus' friends.

“It was easy for the rich people to put in those bags of money,” said Jesus, “because they still have lots more money at home. It was very hard for the woman to give those two small coins.”

“But...”

“When those rich men go home tonight, they will have lots to eat. But who will care for this poor woman who has given all she had?”

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Reflection Questions

We know very little about the widow who came to the temple and gave all she had.

Reflect on these questions about the woman's daily life:

Q What do you think she would say about her day?

Q How do you think she felt when she put her last coins in the treasury box?

Q Does she have any idea of what she will do tomorrow?

The temple is a busy place and there's a lot going on. There are many “important” events taking place.

Q What does Jesus notice?

Q What “important” events do we give our attention to and in doing so, what do we miss?

Q What are the empty ceremonies and the contrasting real actions going on in our communities of faith?

For a cross word puzzle and colouring sheet click on the following links

https://sermons4kids.com/widows_mite_crossword.htm

https://sermons4kids.com/widows_mite_coloring_page

This Sunday our services will focus on Remembrance Day. This year we commemorate 100 years of the Red Poppy being used as the symbol of remembrance for those Canadians who fought and died in the two world wars and in wars and conflicts around the world since then.

Here are some children's books suitable for Remembrance Day

- *A Poppy is to Remember* by Heather Patterson.
- *Proud as a Peacock, Brave as a Lion* by Jane Barclay.
- *In Flanders Fields: The Story of the Poem by John McCrae* by Linda Granfield.

For chapter book readers

Charlie Wilcox and Charlie Wilcox's Great War by Sharon E. McKay

This Week's Craft

This week's craft is how to make tissue paper poppies, you can watch my how-to video at the following link.

You will need:

black and red tissue paper

pencil

scissors

pipe cleaners

circle shapes to trace 2" and 5" diameter (5cm and 12.5-13cm)

optional - large needle

https://youtu.be/t5s8_HKssYc



Since I made the video, I have discovered that other colours of poppies remember other parts of the wars. The white poppy is to remember all people affected by war, especially civilians and the work towards peace. Purple poppies are to remember the millions of animals who have given their lives in wars past and even today.