

**Mark 12:41-44**  
**Widows: Exploited and Obedient**  
**October 26, 2025**

1. Stories

- a. Kasey Faur's ten-year quest for her brothers.
- b. Caela Hopkins' question: What would possess an 11-year-old girl to dedicate more than ten years to find her older brothers?
  - i. Kasey lacked something my children take for granted.
  - ii. The extended family of God.
- c. The miracle that is the family of God. 1 Thessalonians 4:9-10 <SLIDE>  
*Now as to the love of the brethren, you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another; for indeed you do practice it toward all the brethren who are in all Macedonia. But we urge you, brethren, to excel still more.*
- d. We are SO grateful for the kindness literally showered on our family over the past week. I have boasted about you to my family. Now they get to see first hand that our boasting was justified.

2. Review

- a. We talked about four conversations in which Jesus participated.
  - i. These are models for us of how to handle the various encounters we will have as we live out our faith.
  - ii. The final conversation was with a genuine "inquirer", someone looking for the truth.
- b. Jesus and the scribe talked about the greatest commands.
  - i. God's "love language" is obedience to His commands, especially these two.
  - ii. Love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength.
  - iii. Love your neighbor as yourself.
  - iv. Our life's mission is to cultivate these two loves.

3. Read Mark 12:35-44 and pray.

4. Beware your subconscious tendencies:

- a. To accept breaks in the flow of thought that should not be there. <BIBLE SLIDE>
  - i. Subtitles in your Bible are *not* inspired!

- ii. I created a break while writing the outline for this message that should not have been there. Jesus' final conversation with the Jewish leaders and the story of the Widow's Mite are two halves of one story.
  - b. To interpret the time elapsed in the story based on your time to read it.
    - i. In this case, we have covered in several weeks what actually happened in two days.
    - ii. Many Old Testament stories that we read in a few minutes represent *years* of time.
5. This is a bonus conversation.
- a. Imagine a lion playing with his cubs. They roll all over him, biting his ears, his paws. Practicing being lions. Then suddenly, the adult lion has enough and splats the cubs, reminding them just who is boss.
  - b. That's what Jesus was doing here; ending the series of conversations. The Lion had enough!
6. First half—Teaching to re-emphasize why Jesus cleansed the temple. **Remember: The study that has taken us nearly a month represented only two days of Passion Week. What may be hazy in your memory is fresh and current to the characters in the story.**
- a. Jesus asked a question to stump the Jewish leaders,
  - b. Then condemned their hypocrisy. Isaiah 10:1-3 <SLIDE>
 

*Woe to those who enact evil statutes*

*And to those who constantly record unjust decisions,*

*So as to deprive the needy of justice*

*And rob the poor of My people of their rights,*

*So that widows may be their spoil*

*And that they may plunder the orphans.*

*Now what will you do in the day of punishment,*

*And in the devastation which will come from afar?*

*To whom will you flee for help?*

*And where will you leave your wealth?*
  - c. Most important line (because Jesus illustrated it by pointing out a widow), “who devour widows' houses”.
7. Second half—Honoring obedience by acknowledging it.
- a. The rich were giving large amounts, but a small percentage.

- b. The widow gave only a couple pennies, but 100%.
- c. The widow was obedient according to her understanding. The burden she carried was another indictment of the Jewish leadership.
- d. Romans 14:22-23

*The faith which you have, have as your own conviction before God. Happy is he who does not condemn himself in what he approves. But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because his eating is not from faith; and whatever is not from faith is sin.*

8. Application:

- a. Do not be duped by poor or false teaching.
  - i. You are NOT like the widow.
  - ii. You have access to Truth.
    - 1. Through the work of the Holy Spirit
    - 2. Easy access to the Bible
    - 3. Solid Christian community
- b. What are you giving?
  - i. ENCS story about giving.
  - ii. Jesus said the greatest command is for us to love God with our entire being. What does that look like?
  - iii. Jesus said to love
    - 1. Each other as He loved us
    - 2. Our neighbor as ourselves
    - 3. What does that look like?
      - a. Time margin
      - b. Money margin