

# The Poor Widow

Luke 21:1-4

## Luke 21:1–4 (ESV)

**1** Jesus looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the offering box, **2** and he saw a poor widow put in two small copper coins. **3** And he said, “Truly, I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them. **4** For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on.”

## Exodus 35:21–29 (ESV)

**21** And they came, everyone whose heart stirred him, and everyone whose spirit moved him, and brought the LORD's contribution to be used for the tent of meeting, and for all its service, and for the holy garments. **22** So they came, both men and women. All who were of a willing heart brought brooches and earrings and signet rings and armlets, all sorts of gold objects, every man dedicating an offering of gold to the LORD. .. **25** And every skillful woman spun with her hands, and they all brought what they had spun in blue and purple and scarlet yarns and fine twined linen. **26** All the women whose hearts stirred them to use their skill spun the goats' hair. ... **29** All the men and women, the people of Israel, whose heart moved them to bring anything for the work that the LORD had commanded by Moses to be done brought it as a freewill offering to the LORD.

## 2 Kings 12:9–10 (ESV)

**9** Then Jehoiada the priest took a chest and bored a hole in the lid of it and set it beside the altar on the right side as one entered the house of the LORD. And the priests who guarded the threshold put in it all the money that was brought into the house of the LORD. **10** And whenever they saw that there was much money in the chest, the king's secretary and the high priest came up and they bagged and counted the money that was found in the house of the LORD.



### BRONZE LEPTON

The widow in Mark 12 gave two lepta coins to the temple, each worth only half a prutah.

**What one coin could buy:**  
A bath at the public bathhouse.

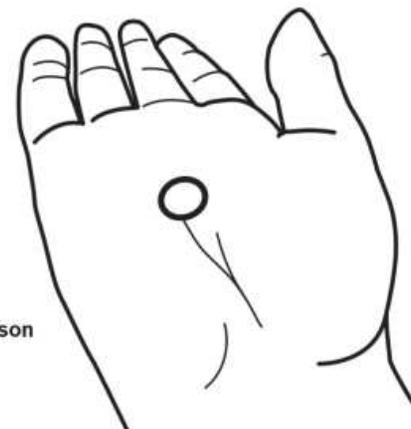
**Translation of coin text:**  
"Of King Alexander"



# A Bronze Lepton

These small bronze coins were minted during the reign of Alexander the Great (336–323 BC). They remained in circulation up to the time of Christ. The widow in the Gospels gave two coins like this as an offering (Mark 12:41–44; Luke 21:1–4).

Size comparison



# Lessons from the Poor Widow

- Jesus noticed when people gave

## Luke 21:1–4 (ESV)

**1 Jesus** looked up and **saw the rich** putting their gifts into the offering box, **2 and he saw a poor widow** put in two small copper coins.

# Lessons from the Poor Widow

- Jesus notices when we give
- Jesus values our offerings differently than others do

## Luke 21:1–4 (ESV)

**1** Jesus looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the offering box, **2** and he saw a poor widow put in two small copper coins. **3** And he said, “Truly, I tell you, **this poor widow has put in more than all of them...**”

# Lessons from the Poor Widow

- Jesus notices when we give
- Jesus values our offerings differently than others do
- Jesus doesn't just notice how much we give but also
  - How much we could have given
  - The spirit with which we give

## **Luke 21:1–4 (ESV)**

**3** And he said, “Truly, I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them. **4** For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on.”

# Lessons from the Poor Widow

- Jesus noticed when people gave
- Jesus valued offerings differently than others did
- Jesus didn't notice what they gave but also
  - How much they could have given
  - The spirit with which they gave
- The proper amount to give was everything

## Luke 21:1–4 (ESV)

**3** And he said, “Truly, I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them. **4** For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on.”

# We Give as the Widow Did

- A voluntary contribution

## 2 Corinthians 9:5–7 (ESV)

5 So I thought it necessary to urge the brothers to go on ahead to you and arrange in advance for the gift you have promised, so that it may be ready as a willing gift, not as an exaction. ... 7

Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

# We Give as the Widow Did

- A voluntary contribution
- Our giving is valued by the attitude with which we give it

## 2 Corinthians 9:5–7 (ESV)

5 So I thought it necessary to urge the brothers to go on ahead to you and arrange in advance for the gift you have promised, so that it may be ready as a willing gift, not as an exaction. ... 7 Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for **God loves a cheerful giver.**

## 2 Corinthians 8:1–4 (ESV)

**1** We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, **2** for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. **3** For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, **4** begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints—

# We Give as the Widow Did

- A voluntary contribution
- Our giving is valued by the attitude with which we give it
- Our giving is valued by not what we give, but what we could give

# 1 Corinthians 16:1–4 (ESV)

**1** Now concerning the collection for the saints: as I directed the churches of Galatia, so you also are to do. **2** On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper, so that there will be no collecting when I come. **3** And when I arrive, I will send those whom you accredit by letter to carry your gift to Jerusalem. **4** If it seems advisable that I should go also, they will accompany me.

# We Give as the Widow Did

- A voluntary contribution
- Our giving is valued by the attitude with which we give it
- Our giving is valued by not what we give, but what we could give
- It is appropriate to give everything to God

## 2 Corinthians 8:3–5 (ESV)

**3** For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, **4** begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints— **5** and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us.

## **Luke 14:33 (ESV)**

**33** So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.

## Philippians 3:7–9 (ESV)

**7** But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. **8** Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ **9** and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—

## **Romans 12:1 (ESV)**

**1** I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

# We Should Give as the Widow Did

- A voluntary contribution
- Our giving is judged by the attitude with which we give it
- Our giving is judged by not what we give, but what we could have given
- It is appropriate to give everything to God

## 2 Corinthians 5:14–15 (ESV)

**14** For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; **15** and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.