

The Generous Heart

DISCUSSION GUIDE

DISCUSSION GOAL

To understand that our generosity, big or small, is seen by God and that true generosity is marked by sacrifice, not by selfish gain.

ICE BREAKER

What are some “crazy” things you’ve seen or done in the name of love?

TEXT

Have a member of your group read the passage aloud.

Mark 12:41-44

⁴¹ And he sat down opposite the treasury and watched the people putting money into the offering box. Many rich people put in large sums. ⁴² And a poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which make a penny. ⁴³ And he called his disciples to him and said to them, “Truly, I say to you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the offering box. ⁴⁴ For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.”

MESSAGE OUTLINE

This is what our pastoral team observed about the passage.

Big Idea: Generosity is marked by sacrifice, not selfish gain.

Key Question: What marks true generosity?

1. It’s seen by God. (vv. 41-42)
2. It’s measured by sacrifice. (v. 43)
3. It’s motivated by faith. (v. 44)

DISCUSSION

- This passage in Mark 12 is about a poor widow who gives everything she has to the Lord. Share a story of a time when you witnessed someone giving joyously or extravagantly to the Lord. How does this shape your view of generosity?
- Verses 41 and 42 describe Jesus sitting and watching people, the rich and the poor, give of their offerings. Does knowing that God sees everything you give and don't give bring you comfort or concern? Why? Does it change your approach to generosity?
- The widow sacrificially gives of all that she has in verse 43 and Jesus remarks that she has given more than any other. What are some things the world believes is worth sacrificing for and why is giving to the Lord far better?
- Discuss how you can practically take a step of faith today in your generosity. Maybe this means giving for the first time, giving consistently, or giving more. How can you trust God in this next step?
- Read 2 Corinthians 8:9. Discuss the generosity of Christ. What effect does his generosity have on those who follow him? How can we reflect Christ's generosity to our sphere of influence?

LIFE APPLICATION

Because of God's generosity, we've been given the gift of faith in Him. This week's passage should challenge us to give sacrificially to God's work, generously partnering with Him in faith. With the holiday season approaching, discuss ways that your group can practice joyous, faith-filled generosity this upcoming season. Consider partnering with outreach initiatives at your campus, or providing for a family in need.

Jot your ideas below and send a picture to your group to remind everyone of your action steps this week.

PRAYER REQUESTS
