



NEW TESTAMENT • LESSON 31

## THE WIDOW'S OFFERING

*The Lord looks into the heart of our offering.*



### MONDAY

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#### **THE STORY: LUKE 20:45**

Beware of outward obedience. While Jesus was teaching in the temple, He warned the people there about the teachers of the law. Jesus exposed their hypocrisy by showing how they took the money of widows and then prayed long prayers. This would have been a most serious charge. No wonder the Jewish rulers wanted to kill Him. Jesus was exposing their sinful lives.

#### **TALK ABOUT IT:**

How did Jesus know about the sins of the Pharisees? (God knows all our sins. Nothing is hidden from God. Jesus didn't have to spy on the religious leaders; He knew.)

Are we, like the Pharisees, tempted to hide sin and then act as though we are good? (Yes. The nature of sin is for us to hide it. Then, just like the Pharisees, we want the praise of men.)

Can you think of a time when you sinned and tried to hide it? Can you remember a time when you tried to look spiritual so others would see? (Parents, lead in confession so then your children will be more apt to share.)

**PRAY:**

Pray that the Lord will forgive our hypocrisy and change our hearts that we might serve Him from the heart and not just with outward deeds.



**TUESDAY**

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**THE STORY: LUKE 21:1-4**

Outward appearances are deceiving. Jesus was sitting next to the place where the offering was being deposited. He then drew attention to a widow's offering. To look at the two small copper coins, one would think it was meaningless amount. But, when we discover it was all she had to live on, we see her great faith in giving it to God.

**TALK ABOUT IT:**

How was the widow different from the others who were giving? (The widow was giving all she had to live on, while the others were giving from their wealth, with money to spare.)

Does this mean we should give away all the money we have to live on? (No. Money is not evil. This passage is teaching that outward appearances can be deceiving. As God told Samuel, man looks to the outward appearance, but He looks at the heart [see 1 Samuel 16:7].)

**PRAY:**

Ask the Lord to help you be more like the widow, who was willing to sacrifice all she had in order to worship to God.



**WEDNESDAY**  
**WHERE IS THE GOSPEL?**

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**THE STORY: MARK 12:41-44**

Mark's description of the widow's offering contains an additional detail. Jesus purposefully sat down opposite the place where the offerings were being placed. He watched the crowd putting money in before He spoke. He had just spoken against the hypocrisy of the teachers of the law who devour widows. Now Jesus used a widow as an example of sincere faith.

Each of us has a choice to make. Will we be like the widow who entrusted her life to God or will we be like the rich men who trusted in their riches? Are we willing to entrust everything we have to God, or is our faith limited to that which does not cost us?

Jesus is present and aware of what is in our hearts. He can see by our actions who or what we really worship. Jesus died on the cross to set us free from the love of money and put love for Himself in our hearts instead. When our hearts are changed by His grace, it is easy to give back to Him because we trust Him with our lives.

**TALK ABOUT IT:**

Is God most interested in our hearts or how much we give? (God is interested in our hearts.)

How does the gospel change our hearts and our worship? (Before God touches us, we are captivated with the treasures of the world and blind to heavenly treasure. It is when the Lord touches our hearts that our blinded eyes are opened to see heavenly treasure. This affects our devotion, our giving, and every other area of our lives.)

**PRAY:**

Pray that every family member would be touched by the Spirit of God, being willing to serve God and give sacrificially from the heart.



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**THURSDAY**

**THE STORY: LUKE 21:5,6**

Even the temple will be destroyed. Some of the stones of the temple were over 30 feet long. The temple, which was the center of worship, would be destroyed in 70 A.D. by the Romans. Everyone failed to understand that the temple was to point to Christ. When they wanted to know when these things would happen, Jesus told them a generation would not pass away until these things happened (Luke 21:32). About 40 years later, in the length of a generation, the temple was destroyed.

**TALK ABOUT IT :**

Why is the temple building no longer important in Christianity? (All believers have the Holy Spirit living inside of them, and we are God's living temple [see Ephesians 2:21,22].)

Why do you think God allowed the temple to be destroyed? (Just like the disciples, men are attracted to beautiful things of this world. The temple was to point to Jesus as the place where God dwells and as the place where man and God are reconciled and meet together. Now that Jesus has come, there is no need for the temple building.)

**PRAY:**

Thank the Lord for making us His temple and for giving us His Holy Spirit to live within us.



**FRIDAY**  
**ON THE ROAD TO EMMAUS**

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**THE STORY: ISAIAH 29:13,14**

Jesus quotes these verses in Matthew 15:8,9 to speak of the hypocrisy of the Pharisees. Jesus regularly exposed the hearts of the Pharisees. Jesus also frustrated the Pharisees' brilliantly shrewd schemes to trap the Lord.

**TALK ABOUT IT:**

What does it mean to honor the Lord with your lips, but have hearts that are far from Him? (It is easy to say that you love and worship the Lord, but much harder to love and live for Him inwardly. Only by the grace of God can we live for God from the heart.)

How does this passage fit the lives of the Pharisees as described in Luke 20:45-47? (The outward honoring would be their long public prayers. Their corrupt hearts would be represented by the way they were cheating the widows.)

**PRAY:**

Ask God to help you honor Him with your words and actions as well as with sincere devotion of heart.