

# The Widow's Mites And the Rich Young Ruler

Mark 12:41-44



New Testament 5  
Part 1: Jesus' Ministry

## SUNDAY MORNING

New Testament 5 [Class Attendance Sheet](#) provided in activity sheets (NOTE: The document is interactive, allowing the teacher to type in the Class, Teacher, and the children's names.)

### SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

Mark 12:41-44; Luke 21:1-4; Matthew 6:1-4; 2 Corinthians 9:6-15

### MEMORY WORK:

YOUNGER CHILDREN: "God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7b).

OLDER CHILDREN: "So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7).

### SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS (SEE END OF LESSON FOR WORDS):

A [song book](#) and [audio recordings](#) of many of the curriculum songs are available on the curriculum Web site.

- ["Giving to Jesus"](#)
- ["The Widow Gave to God"](#)
- ["What You Have"](#)

### LESSON VISUALS AND TEACHING AIDS (NOTE ANY DISCLAIMERS):

- See [AP's Pinterest page](#) for ideas on bulletin boards, visuals, crafts, etc. [DISCLAIMER: Pins may sometimes need to be adjusted to be Scriptural.]
- [Jesus' Ministry & Last Week Bible fact cards](#) (provided under "N.T. 5 Bible Facts" on curriculum Web site)
- "Summary of the Bible" from "[Kids Prep](#)" CD by Jeff Miller
- Betty Lukens' felt pieces
- Felt figures (or dolls) to represent the widow and one or more finely dressed men; Temple scene (purple cloth over a cardboard background)
- Two drawstring purses made of felt (one with several coins, the other empty). As you talk about the rich who gave, look into the purse with money and talk about how much money they had left over. Then open the empty purse and show that the widow had nothing left.
- Play money and pictures to illustrate how our contribution is used (pictures of your congregation's missionaries, the preachers, Bible class supplies, Bibles, etc.). As you



**talk about the ways the elders decide to use our contributions, lay the play money on each picture. Then give each child equal amounts of the money, and ask them to decide how they will use it and what they will save for the Lord.**

### PERSONAL APPLICATION:

One way I show God that I love Him is by giving cheerfully (gladly; with a good attitude).

## LESSON STARTS HERE

### INTRODUCTION: (YOUNGER CHILDREN)

Review last week's lesson.

Jesus was the best Teacher that has ever lived. He taught important lessons about how we should live so we can go to heaven. We can learn the same lessons He taught by reading the Bible. Today we are going to talk about an important lesson Jesus taught about how we should give.

### INTRODUCTION: (OLDER CHILDREN)

Review last week's lesson.

Jesus was the greatest Teacher that has ever lived. He taught many important lessons about how we should live so we can go to heaven. We can learn the same lessons He taught by reading the Bible. One of the lessons He taught was about the kind of attitude we should have about giving to God. Jesus taught that it's not necessarily how much we give, but what our attitude is when we give. Let's see how He taught this lesson.

### POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Some of the Jewish leaders [Pharisees, Herodians (Mark 12:13), Sadducees (Mark 12:18), and Jewish scribes (Mark 12:28)] came to Jesus to try to trick Him with difficult questions. They wanted to find some excuse to have Jesus arrested so that they could stop His teaching and His miracles. These men thought they were better than other people. They often wore special clothing to set themselves apart from everyone else. When they gave to the poor and put money in the Temple treasury, they made sure that other people saw what they were doing. They liked to draw attention to themselves and make others think, "Wow, look how religious they are!" These men thought they should even have seats of honor in the **synagogues**. But Jesus condemned them for trying to make themselves look better than everyone else when their actions (e.g., taking away widows' houses, etc.) showed that they loved themselves and not God.



**NOTE:** Under the Law of Moses, widows and orphans were supposed to be assisted by everyone else (Exodus 22:22-24; Deuteronomy 27:19; Isaiah 1:17; Jeremiah 22:3). But by the first century A.D., they were given very little help, in spite of what the Law said. Widows had no economic or social power; without a husband, they were defenseless, easy targets for greedy landowners, and creditors. Jewish religious leaders could say long, beautifully worded prayers, but they did not show mercy or compassion to widows (or others) in need.



**Synagogue:** In New Testament times, the synagogue was a house of worship for the Jews. It was also a place where men would gather to study and discuss Scripture. There had to be at least 10 men in a community to build a synagogue.

2. Jesus and His apostles were sitting in the Temple courtyard, watching people put money (their offerings to God) into the treasury box. Jesus had just finished condemning the Jewish leaders for their arrogant, show-off behavior when He spotted a widow approaching the box. He saw her put two small copper coins into the treasury box. He had seen a multitude of people put large sums of money into the box, but He was much more impressed with what this poor widow had done. Even though the other people gave large amounts of money, they gave out of their abundance. They wouldn't miss the money they put in the treasury box; they were not giving all they could. They were giving so that others could see them and praise them. The poor widow gave to God out of love. Jesus told the apostles that the widow gave more than the rich people because she willingly gave all she had; she truly sacrificed to God.

**HISTORICAL NOTE:** The Temple in which Jesus was sitting was the one being built by Herod Antipas—the same Herod who beheaded John (Matthew 14:1-12) and who would be part of Jesus' mock trials before His crucifixion. In the ruins of this Temple, archaeologists have found several treasury boxes with cone-like openings on top through which money could be deposited.



The widow's mites were two "leptons" (*lepta*), which were Jewish coins made before the Romans took over Palestine. The word lepton means "thin." As its name implies, this tiny coin was thin, very lightweight, and made of inferior bronze or copper. These coins may have been worth as much as 3.5 cents or as little as 2 cents. Since the average daily wage was about 18 to 20 cents (one denarius), the mites would have been a sizable part of the common person's daily income.

3. Why do we give things to people? When we love and appreciate someone for what they do for us, we want to show them how we feel by giving them something special (Mother's Day, Father's Day, birthdays, teacher's gifts, etc.).
4. God gives us many wonderful blessings because of His great love for us. So how do we show God that we love Him and appreciate all He's done for us? By giving back to Him! We should plan ("purpose") what to give, with much thought and prayer. If you get an allowance, you should plan to put some of it aside for your contribution on Sunday. If you earn money by cutting grass or baby-sitting, you should make it a habit to save some of your earnings to give back to God.
5. What is our money (contribution) used for? We give money to help missionaries and teachers and preachers tell others about Jesus, both here and in other parts of the world. We give our money to buy things (food, clothing, medicines) for people who have lost their jobs or can't work. We give our money so we can have a place to worship and materials to use in Bible class. We give our money to buy Bibles for people who don't have any. We give our money to help children who do not have a home.
6. Do we give other things to God besides money? Yes! We can give our time and talents (abilities) to help others and honor God. Under the Old Law, the Jews not only gave gold or silver to God, they also offered sacrifices at their place of worship (Tabernacle, synagogue, or Temple) to show their

love for Him. Today our sacrifices include praising God, doing good to others, sharing what we have (Hebrews 13:15-16), being kind and fair to others, and being humble (Micah 6:6-8).

7. When do we give? We are told to give on the first day of the week, Sunday (1 Corinthians 16:2), but there are also other times when we can give (i.e., whenever there is a special need—2 Corinthians 8:1-5; Acts 6:1-4).
8. How do we give? We should give cheerfully, with a willing heart—not grudgingly. A cheerful giver never says, “Do I have to give **my** money? Why should I give **my** money?” (2 Corinthians 9:7). No matter how much I give, if my attitude toward God isn’t right, I am not making the kind of gift God expects or appreciates. A large amount of money given with the wrong attitude is worthless in God’s sight.

### PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—**BEFORE** CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):

- Click here for complete [Activity Book](#) and [Answer Key](#)

#### Ages 2-5:

- “[The Widow’s Mites Coloring Sheet](#)” (provided in activity sheets)
- Making Piggy Banks: Help the children make banks from plastic soda bottles, small boxes, or other containers. Cut a slot in each container, and encourage the children to decorate their banks with stickers, foam or felt stickers, markers, etc. Talk with the children about what they will do with the money they save, encouraging them to give some back to God.
- Review game: You will need several coin cutouts or play money bills (at least one for each child). You can usually find packages of coin cutouts at teachers’ supply or dollar stores. Another option is to find pictures of Bible times coins on-line, enlarge them to at least half-dollar size, and print them. Give each child one of these coins or paper bills on which you have written a review question. Read the questions on the backs of their money. When he answers correctly, he puts his coin or paper bill in the plate (or basket) and passes it to the next child. (“[Coin Cutouts](#)” provided in activity sheets)
- Role play: Let the children act out the story.

#### 1st-2nd Graders:

- Making Piggy Banks: Help the children make banks from plastic soda bottles, small boxes, or other containers. Cut a slot in each container, and encourage the children to decorate their banks with stickers, foam or felt stickers, markers, etc. Talk with the children about what they will do with the money they save, encouraging them to give some back to God.
- “[Memory Verse Cutouts](#)” (provided in activity sheets)
- “[Widows Mites Word Search](#)” (provided in activity sheets)
- “I Can Name that Memory Verse with...” game: You will need to use all the memory verses from this lesson and previous lessons. The game can be played with pairs or two teams. The teacher says the scripture reference for a memory verse. Then the team (or team member) going first decides how many words they/he need you to give so they/he can say the memory verse. The other team can then decide if it wants to try to figure out the verse with fewer words given. The teams go back and forth until one team decides to let the other try, and says, “Name that verse.” You say the given number of words from the verse, and the team must then say the entire verse. (Example: If a team says it can name the verse after only two words, you give the first two consecutive words as a clue, and then it must say the whole

verse.)

- “Bible Bingo”: Make a list of review questions over lessons in the unit that have one or two word answers. Make a Bingo card for each student, and write the answers in different places on each card. (Use Bible stickers when possible for 1st graders.) If possible, laminate the cards. Give students small squares of paper (or candy) to cover the spaces on their boards. To play, read the review questions, and ask the students to cover the correct answers on their boards. The first to get four or five in a row (depending on your Bingo board) wins. (Bible Bingo [rules](#) and board provided in activity sheets)

### 3rd-4th Graders:

- “[Memory Verse Cutouts](#)” (provided in activity sheets)
- “[Widows Mites Word Search](#)” (provided in activity sheets)
- Concordance search: Divide the class into small groups. Give each group a Bible concordance. Have the groups find and read scriptures that contain the words “give” or “giving.”
- “I Can Name that Memory Verse with...” game: You will need to use all the memory verses from this lesson and previous lessons. The game can be played with pairs or two teams. The teacher says the scripture reference for a memory verse. Then the team (or team member) going first decides how many words they/he need you to give so they/he can say the memory verse. The other team can then decide if it wants to try to figure out the verse with fewer words given. The teams go back and forth until one team decides to let the other try, and says, “Name that verse.” You say the given number of words from the verse, and the team must then say the entire verse. (Example: If a team says it can name the verse after only two words, you give the first two consecutive words as a clue, and then it must say the whole verse.)
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- Have the children read the following:
  - Mark 12; Luke 21; 2 Corinthians 9
  - “The Gift of Giving” article from the [August, 2013](#) issue of *Discovery Magazine*
  - *What If I Owned Everything?* by Larry Burkett, Tommy Nelson, Inc.
  - *Bethany Learns About Giving*, by Vicki Billings
  - *Jesus Teaches His Disciples*, Contemporary Bible Series, Scandinavia Publishing House (DISCLAIMERS: skip pp. 26-27, 40-41; change “hell” to “Hades” on p. 50)

## FINGERPLAYS:

### “GIVING TO JESUS”

(Illustrate with pictures and movements)

This is Billie when he gives to the baker.     *(frown and reluctantly reach into pocket for*  
This is Billie when he gives money to buy a new toy.     *first two lines)*  
But this is Billie when he gives to Jesus.     *(smile, eagerly reach into pocket)*  
Did you ever see such a happy boy?

This is Becky when she goes shopping,     *(frown, act unwilling)*

To buy clothes or shoes or pearls.  
But this is Becky when she gives to Jesus! *(smile and willingly open pretend purse)*  
Did you ever see such a happy girl?

## SONGS:

### “THE WIDOW GAVE TO GOD” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Unknown\*

(Tune: chorus of “Blessed Be the Name”)

The widow gave to God; the widow gave to God;  
The widow gave to God all she had.  
The widow gave to God; the widow gave to God;  
The widow gave to God all she had.

Let us give to God; let us give to God.  
Let us give to God on the Lord’s Day.  
Let us give to God; let us give to God.  
Let us give to God on the Lord’s Day.

### “WHAT YOU HAVE” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Unknown\*

(Tune: “Skip to My Lou”)

Do, do, good to o-thers. (3X)  
Remember, do good to o-thers.

Share, share, share what you have. (3X)  
Share what you have with o-thers.

Give, give, give from your heart. (3X)  
Give from your heart to o-thers.

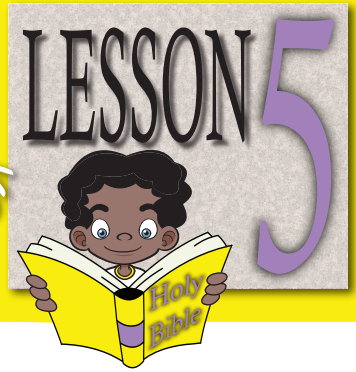
\*Author Unknown: Please contact us through the feedback button for this lesson if you are aware of any copyright information for this song.

\*\*\* IF YOU HAVE SUGGESTIONS PERTAINING TO THIS LESSON, PLEASE CLICK THE “SUGGESTION” BUTTON BESIDE THE BUTTON FOR THIS LESSON ON THE CURRICULUM WEB SITE.



# The Widow's Mites And the Rich Young Ruler

Luke 18:18-30



New Testament 5  
Part 1: Jesus' Ministry

## WEDNESDAY EVENING

New Testament 5 [Class Attendance Sheet](#) provided in activity sheets (NOTE: The document is interactive, allowing the teacher to type in the Class, Teacher, and the children's names.)

### SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

Luke 18:18-30

### MEMORY WORK:

YOUNGER CHILDREN: "God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7b).

OLDER CHILDREN: "So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7).

### SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS (SEE END OF SUNDAY'S LESSON FOR WORDS):

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- Play money and pictures to illustrate how our contribution is used (pictures of your



congregation’s missionaries, the preachers, Bible class supplies, Bibles, etc.). As you talk about the ways the elders decide to use our contributions, lay the play money on each picture. Then give each child equal amounts of the money, and ask them to decide how they will use it and what they will save for the Lord.

### PERSONAL APPLICATION:

One way I show God that I love Him is by giving cheerfully (gladly; with a good attitude).

### INTRODUCTION:

Review [N.T. 5 Bible Fact Flash Cards](#) (provided under “N.T. 5 Bible Facts” on curriculum Web site)

### POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Review Sunday’s lesson (see [N.T. 5 Review Questions](#) for example questions). Continue talking about making a habit of saving money for the weekly contribution.
2. A good object lesson would be to give each child ten one dollar bills (play money), and ask them to pretend this is their allowance, given to them on Saturday morning. Play-act the part of the mother taking each child shopping for the day, (i.e., toy store, the mall, grocery store, etc.), and have the child “spend” his money on various items. At the end of the shopping trip, have each child count how much money is left. Some may not have anything. Ask them “How much money do you have left to give to God tomorrow?” Help the children think about planning ahead so that their offering to God is set aside first before they spend all that they have on themselves.
3. Build on the object lesson by showing that if they are given more from God, they should also give more to God (“storing up **as he may prosper**”—1 Corinthians 16:2). Give the children twenty play dollars instead, and show how they should give two times as much as they gave when they only had ten dollars.
4. In Luke 18, we read about a man who came to see Jesus—a wealthy young man (vss. 18-30). He had trouble letting go of his riches for God. He asked Jesus what he needed to do to inherit eternal life (to go to heaven and be with God forever).
5. He assured Jesus that he had been careful to obey the Old Testament laws (the Law of Moses) all his life (from his youth). Jesus knew that this was partly true, but He knew that the man had not really followed one of the commandments very well: the tenth commandment of the Ten Commandments (You shall not covet/strongly crave things...). Jesus knew that the man loved material things (e.g., money, clothes, games, and toys) more than he loved spiritual things (e.g., God, heaven, helping others, and the Church).
6. Jesus told the rich young man that to make sure he would be with God, he needed to let go of all of his material possessions—his stuff. He needed to sell everything he had and then follow Him. The young man went away sorrowful, because he did not want to do what Jesus told him to do. He had a lot of money, and he wasn’t willing to give it up. He did not want to give up all the **things** he had in order to follow Jesus. **Things** were very important to him—more important than God, and more important than heaven. Read Matthew 6:19-20; 16:24.
7. After the rich young man walked away from Jesus, Jesus told His disciples how hard it is for a rich person to go to heaven—harder than it is for a camel to go through the eye/hole



in a needle. But He also told His disciples that with God, all things are possible. He then told His disciples that those who are willing to give everything up for the Kingdom (things, and even their family if it is necessary to do what's right) will be blessed on Earth and in heaven.

8. Let's be sure to never love money and things more than others. Use every opportunity you have to help those in need and to share with and give to others—especially God, Who gave us our things in the first place!

**PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—BEFORE CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):**

See Sunday morning's lesson

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