

**How did your practice of Solitude go this week? What challenges did you face when thinking about your emotions? Is there anything that God spoke to you whilst you were praying?**

“There is more happiness in giving than in receiving.” —Acts 20v35 Few of Jesus’ teachings are more radical, counterintuitive, and potentially disorienting to our cultural assumptions, than what Jesus has to say about money and generosity. We hear constantly the Western formula of “more money = more happiness.” But Jesus boldly claims that happiness is found not in the accumulation of wealth, but in a deeply relational life of giving and love.

How were money and generosity handled in your family growing up?

What is your primary feeling about money? Is it Fear? Desire for more? Shame? Ambivalence?

At this point in the gospel Jesus is challenging the religious order. Mark 11 involves Jesus entering Jerusalem (triumphal entry) and cleansing the temple. Mark 12: He teaches in the temple, debates religious leaders, and issues strong warnings. By Mark 13, he is saying that the whole temple will be destroyed. Jesus is turning over the old ways and bringing something new.

Read Mark 12:38-44

1. What kind of behaviour does Jesus condemn in the scribes (vv. 38–40)?
2. What is the connection between pride and exploitation?

3. In what ways might we Christians today, fall into the same patterns as the scribes?
4. Jesus sits down and notices the giving situation in the temple. What he observes is so important, that he gathers the disciples together for a key teaching moment. What does he show them?
5. What is the contrast between the scribes and the widow? How do their actions reflect their values and their understanding of God?
6. What fears or desires keep you from being generous? (It could be a scarcity mindset, a need for “security,” greed, or something else.)
7. How would your life be different if you were free of the fear of not having enough?
8. Whether you were the giver or recipient, share about a time when you experienced the joy of generosity.
9. How can we cultivate the kind of faith and generosity the widow displayed?
10. What would being generous look like for those who have little to spare and those who have more flexibility with their resources?
11. What are good ways of expressing generosity to others and what are unhelpful ways? What are helpful ways of receiving generosity?

## Prayer Points

Continue to pray for those who are receiving cancer treatment. There are people in the church who are being treated at hospital or at home and need our prayers.

Pray for BMS partners the Arab Baptist Theological Seminary and Bethlehem Bible College, who train people to lead ministries that bless their own communities. Pray that people see Christ's love and that Christians are an important part of their community.

## Sermon Notes

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If you would like to join a Connect Group, please contact the church office 01424 730001



# BIBLE STUDY

October 12<sup>th</sup> 2025

## Practicing the Way: Generosity Mark 12:38-44

Following Jesus has been likened to a long journey. When Jesus invited his first disciples to "follow" Him on the "way," He was simultaneously saying that discipleship to Him is a lifelong path of learning. This series is designed to help you become more familiar with the journey of spiritual formation, help you get unstuck if you've stalled, or just guide you into being more confident to help others in their journey. Ultimately, its goal is to train you to live as an apprentice or disciple of Jesus: to be with Jesus, become like Him, and do as He did.