

SERMON SERIES: Transformation
Sermon Title: "The Mighty Widow"
Text: Mark 12: 41-44

Introduction: A consistent theme throughout the Bible and church history is that God uses people, we would never expect, to lead us in the path of discipleship. An opening question: Can you think of an example of someone who you would never have anticipated that God has used to speak into your life?

Reflect on the sermon: Did you gain any new insights on this familiar story?

Examination: Discuss these key points from the message/text:

- Verse 41: What is the significance of Jesus "sitting down" and "watching"?
- Read Proverbs 15:3 and Psalm 121.
 - What do these verses reveal about our "watching God"?
 - Does it cause you anxiety or comfort to know that the Lord is always watching?
- How important to the Lord is it in how we use the finances He has entrusted to us? Why?

Discuss these various ways that the widow guides us in the path of discipleship:

- Grateful Trust: How does the widow reveal a heart of grateful trust in God? Read Psalm 28:7 and Colossians 2:6, 7. What builds this type of grateful trust in our lives?
- Freedom in Christ: How does the widow model freedom? (*See Galatians 1:10*) How much do you struggle with worry about what others think? What are some practical ways we can grow in "living our lives before an audience of One"?
- Abandonment: How does the widow guide us in abandoning all into the hands of God? (*See Galatians 2:20 & Philippians 3: 7-14*) What hinders this type of living? Has there been a time when you have been able to abandon all to the Lord?
- Power of the Powerless: Reflect on how the widow reveals this spiritual principle. Who else in the Bible/church history do we see this principle at work through? Read 1 Corinthians 1: 25-28 and 1 Corinthians 12: 9, 10. Can you think of a way this principle has been active in your own life?

Application:

Identify and share one personal application you want to make from this study.

Consider making this a daily prayer:

Father,

I abandon myself into your hands; do with me what you will. Whatever you may do, I thank you: I am ready for all, I accept all. Let only your will be done in me, and in all your creatures - I wish no more than this, O Lord. Into your hands I commend my soul: I offer it to you with all the love of my heart, for I love you, Lord, and so need to give myself, to surrender myself into your hands without reserve, and with boundless confidence, for you are my Father.

Charles de Foucauld