

The story of the Widow's Offering

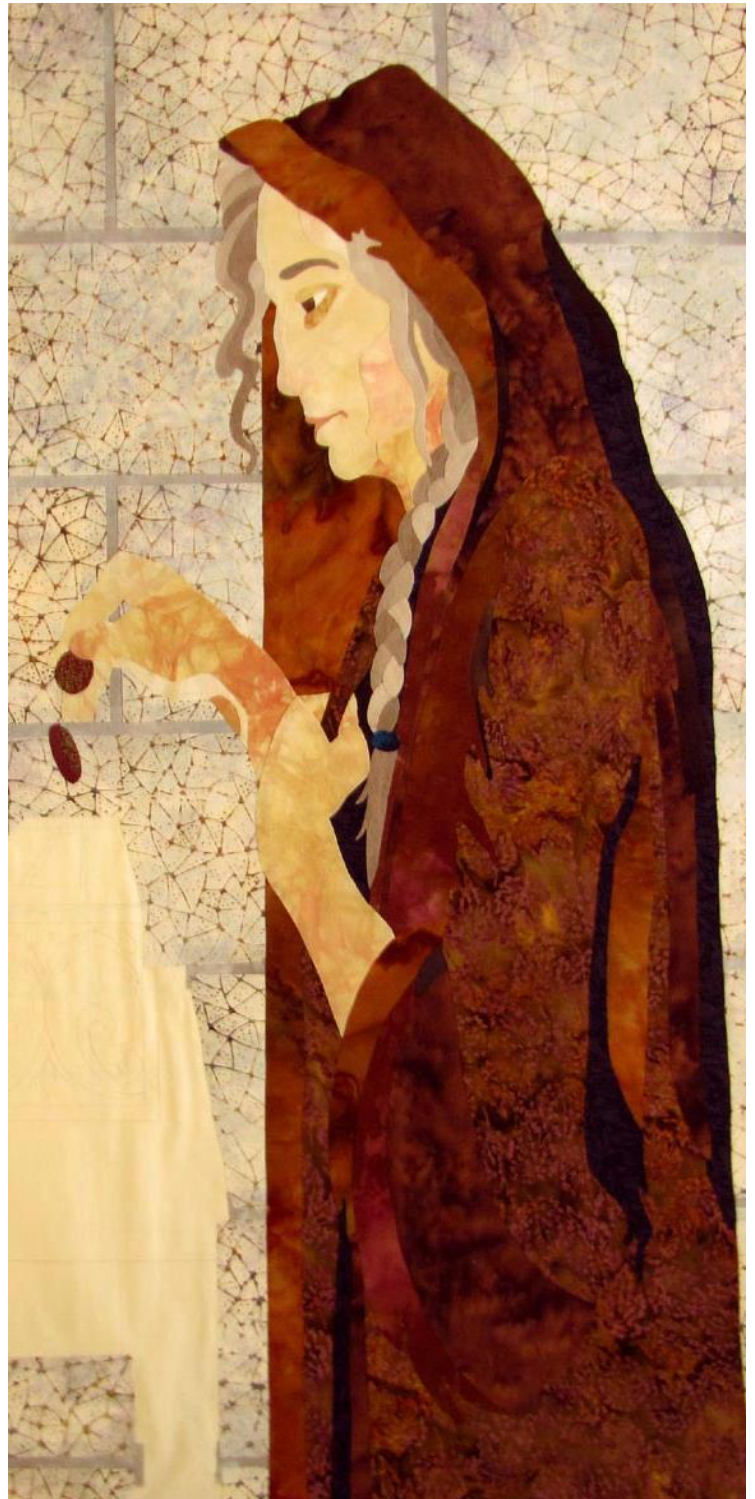
(This story is sometimes called the Widow's Mite. A mite is a Greek coin.)

Once Jesus was standing opposite the Temple treasury, watching as people dropped their money into the collection boxes. Many rich people were giving large sums of money as the crowds watched them.

Soon a poor widow came along, and she dropped in 2 tiny coins worth about a penny.

Jesus called his disciples over to him and said to them- "I tell you this- that poor widow has put in more than all the others. For they have contributed a little out of all their wealth, but she, who lives in poverty, has given EVERYTHING she had...her whole living."

Mark 12: 41-44



NEED TO KNOW WORDS & IDEAS

Widow = a woman whose husband has died.

Temple Treasury = each Temple collected money from the worshippers, money which was given to God and used to help run the Temple. The money was probably collected in a big chest and then put into a room in the Temple which would have been called the Treasury. Churches still do this today- during a church service they send round a collection plate which people put money into.

Disciple = a follower of Jesus

What & Why: How do we measure giving?

KW:

Starter

1. The parable of the Sheep and Goats teaches us that, when we help those less fortunate, we are also helping _____.
2. In the same parable, how did the Sheep help those in prison?
3. In the parable of the Lost Son, what was the youngest son forced to do when he ran out of money?
4. What do you call the followers of Jesus? (D_____)
5. Complete the start of this Jesus quote; '... neighbour as yourself)
6. What even in Jesus' life is celebrated during Easter?
7. What is the Christian term for 'the one who saves people'?
8. What does the term 'Incarnation' mean?

Parable
Widow
Treasury
Disciple
Poverty
Wealth

Task 1: [Read the parable of the Widow's Offering](#)

AIM: Read it out loud to a family member

Alternative: Watch the story here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e_ELtBr0BqA

Task 2 Work your way through the MUST DO questions from the booklet

- a) Who are the main characters?
- b) Give three pieces of detail about the main character.
- c) What is the story about?
- d) What might this mean?
- e) Have you had any similar experiences?
- f) Can you explain why it was important for this story to be told?
- g) Considering society today, why is this story still relevant?
- h) Compared to another religious story, which one is better and why?
- i) Who would you recommend this to?

Task 3

Select ONE task from the learning ladder to deepen your knowledge. Aim as high up the ladder as you can but make sure your evidence shows you thought about the answers to your MUST DO questions. Have fun with it, involve family members and remember to take photos of your work or save it as evidence. We will display the best work on the CLF blog where you will also find examples

https://learn.clf.uk/year-7/?tx_subjects=religion-and-world-views&cvpwp=s)

Task 4 – Checking your understanding

1. How is the money from the Temple Treasury spent?
2. Churches use similar collection boxes today; true or false?
3. In the story, who was watching as the rich donated money to the temple?
4. How wealthy was the widow in the story?
5. How much did she donate?
6. Why did Jesus tell his disciples that the widow had contributed more?
7. What is a disciple?

ANSWERS

What & Why: How do we measure giving?

Starter:

1. Jesus/God
2. They visited them
3. Feed pigs/work on a pig farm.
4. Disciple
5. Love your/thy neighbour
6. Coming back to life
7. Saviour
8. 'to become flesh' – the Christian idea that Jesus is God 'made flesh'

Task 2

- a) Jesus and the widow.
- b) Jesus is called 'Son of God'. He is known as the 'word' by Christians as he gives God's word to humans. Christians believe Jesus sets the best example of how we should live our lives.
- c) A widow is a woman whose husband has died. The widow has very little money but she gives it all to God. The widow makes a greater contribution to God because she is willing to give everything she has, whilst the rich give a lot but not so much that it would make an impact on their lives.
- d) This is a teaching story, or a parable. It teaches Christians that God values those who give to the Church but that it shouldn't be for the reward of looking good in front of others, but for the genuine action of giving. Jesus claims that the widow has given 'more than all the others'.
- e) This story means that we should give to those who need it and that we shouldn't do good things for reward but to do them because they are good things to do.
- f) I have had a similar experience where I have given to charity anonymously or the homeless without looking for a reward for doing it. However, I haven't given all my wealth, so I am not completely like the widow.
- g) I think this story was told to teach people about the importance of giving to those who need it and for Christians to give to the Church. I think it was also taught to encourage those who can give more to do so.
- h) This story could still be relevant today to encourage people to be giving, especially those who could give more if they are wealthy. However, some may argue that the widow gave too much and to encourage anyone to give everything they have is not realistic.
- i) I have recently looked at the parable of the sheep and the goats, I think that is a better story because it teaches people that good and bad actions have consequences. This story is good to highlight that we should give to worthy causes not for our own rewards, but just because it is a good thing to do, however I think that the parable of the sheep and goats is more meaningful everyday.
- j) I would recommend this story to anyone. I think it makes you think about a lot of interesting questions, such as; how much money should someone give to their religion? Is it right to ask people to give everything they have? Is it possible to do something good without looking for a reward for doing it? Is it fair to have very, very rich people in society and very poor people?

(Task 4 answers will be revealed in next week's task sheet)

Task 4 Answers from last week:

1. B
2. Heaven/Kingdom of God
3. C
4. Hell/Eternal Punishment
5. A
6. Jesus
7. Sheep = Good people/helped others,
Goat = Bad people/didn't help others