

Mark 12:41-44

⁴¹ Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. ⁴² But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a fraction of a penny.

⁴³ Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, “I tell you the truth, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. ⁴⁴ They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on.”

Widows were often marginalized

(a) People took advantage of them

Job 24:21, They prey on the barren and childless woman, and to the widow show no kindness.

(b) Their lives were of little value

Psalms 94:6, They slay the widow and the alien; they murder the fatherless.

Widows were often marginalized

(c) Laws were often abused

Isaiah 1:23, Your rulers are rebels,
companions of thieves; they all love
bribes and chase after gifts. They do
not defend the cause of the fatherless;
the widow's case does not come
before them.

Widows were often marginalized

(d) Often neglected in caring

Acts 6:1, In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Grecian Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food.

Mark 12:38-40, ³⁸As he taught, Jesus said, “Watch out for the teachers of the law. They like to walk around in flowing robes and be greeted in the marketplaces, ³⁹and have the most important seats in the synagogues and the places of honor at banquets. ⁴⁰They devour widows’ houses and for a show make lengthy prayers. Such men will be punished most severely.”

12:41 “watch”

✦ Revelation 1:14, His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire.

✦ Revelation 2:18, the Son of God, whose eyes are like blazing fire

✦ Daniel 10:6, his eyes like flaming torches

Mark 12

- ✦ Mark 12:13-17, Paying Taxes to Caesar
- ✦ Mark 12:18-27, Marriage at the Resurrection
- ✦ Mark 12:28-34, the Greatest Commandment
- ✦ Mark 12:35-40, Whose Son is the Christ
- ✦ Mark 12:41-44, the Widow's mite

2 Timothy 1:5

I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also.

“My dear child, when you were still little, I spent a lot of time teaching you how to use a spoon and chopsticks to eat with. I taught you to do your shoe laces, button up, try out the slide, put on your shirts properly, comb your hair, blow your nose... O how I recall fondly the many little things we did together...

So, when I can no longer recall, can't latch on to the conversation, please give me a little more time, wait a while and let me think. Perhaps even then I will still not be able to remember what I want to say.

My dear child, do you remember the many times we practiced before you could master the first nursery song? Do you remember how each day I have to search my mind to attempt the many “whys” you posed and goodness knows where in the world you had so many questions when you were little?

So when I bring up over and over again old stories or sing songs from my childhood, please be understanding, let me indulge in my precious memories. And I hope you would also be there to reminisce with me and just chat.

My child, nowadays I sometimes forget to button up, tie my shoelaces. When I eat, I sometimes mess up my clothings. And my hands do not seem to be steady when I comb my hair. Do not rush me then. But be more patient and gentle with me because your presence and understanding will bring me much warmth and thankful heart.

My child, now that my feet tend to wobble and I am hard of walking; so, please take hold of my hand, firmly, be there with me, let me take my time, and let us take our time together. Just like what we used to do years ago when you were little, when I took your hand and taught you how to walk little step little by step.”