



## 50 - The King Who Gave Sacrificially - Mark 12:41-44 - Discussion Notes

### Introduction

In Mark 12:41-44, Jesus draws the attention of his followers to a poor widow. This widow gave everything she had even though she was being devoured by a condemned religious system (Mark 12:40). Jesus uses this as an object lesson to point to the true King (himself) who would be devoured on the cross as He gave his all. Only in Jesus do we see just how far God will go to identify with the vulnerable (i.e., the poor, the widow, the immigrant, the orphan, etc) and condemn injustice. As the true King, Jesus would voluntarily disrobe himself of his glory, become vulnerable, give all he had, and be devoured on the cross.

### Observation/Interpretation

- Read Mark 12:40 with 12:42. In what ways is Mark intending to connect these two verses?
- Traditionally, the interpretations on this passage has emphasized the widow and her generosity, which has often led to moralized teachings on, following the example of the widow. Is it possible that the true hero of the story isn't the widow at all but rather Jesus, who would become the vulnerable King who would give his all? Discuss ways in which the Bible has often been turned into a book on moral living instead of about Jesus' greatness.
- Mark records that in vs. 44 this widow gave, "everything she had". The Greek word used here is "bios" or "life". How is this vulnerable widow who gave her very life a picture of Jesus who would give his?

### Application

- How does knowing that Jesus, in his love for you, became vulnerable in order to be devoured by a judgement and death that you deserve, rearrange what your heart values/loves?
- In what ways does this change you practically?

### Prayer

Pray that God's love for you would transform the way you view/spend your life, your possessions and your time so as to honor the One who loved you.

#### Community Group Discussion

- Read the passage together out loud.
- Involve your group by asking/answering the study questions, taking the time to share.
- Ask for prayer requests and be sure to pray together.

#### Family Discussion

- Have your child/children read the passage aloud, if old enough otherwise you read it aloud.
- Involve them by asking questions.
- Ask for prayer requests and invite them to pray together as a family.

A great way to use of these notes is to start/join a Community Group

These notes can be used for personal bible study, yet, another way would be to invite some people together. We call these intentional gatherings, 'Community Groups'.

What is a Community Group?

Community Groups are small gatherings of believers (non-believers welcomed too!) that meet regularly for accountability, friendship, study of the Bible and prayer. Community Groups are an essential part of the mission of Calvary SLO Church as they are a place where we wrestle with the truths of the Bible and encourage one another toward the life God intends. Each community group is unique and molded by the people who attend it. Most community groups gather weekly and involve food, dialog, prayer, discussion for applying the Bible to practical living, and loving service to one-another. They're meant to be an organic and authentic expression of the church, actively living like the body of Jesus.

Why should I join/start a Community Group?

God is a Trinitarian God who is revealed as one in three persons: Father, Son and Spirit. We've been made to image God, which means we're designed for community & friendship. We often suffer when we're not in community, due to the brokenness of life, complexity of this world and the temptation to isolate ourselves. We encourage you to gather with a small group of friends, family or roommates on a weekly basis and use these discussion notes to press deeper into God.

How do I join the Calvary SLO Community Group eco-system?

We're enthusiastic about all forms of biblical community, however there are definite benefits to joining with the Calvary SLO Community Group (CG) eco-system. In short, the benefits are:

- **Training:** We have trainings intent on equipping leaders.
- **Support:** Each CG leader is assigned a coach to provide assistance and ongoing support.
- **Visibility:** CG's are promoted via the bulletin, website & given access to The City (our online social network).

To join all you have to do is sign up for the next upcoming training! Info: pastor James: james@calvaryslo.com.