

WOMEN OF THE NEW TESTAMENT PERSISTENT WIDOW AND WIDOW'S OFFERING

Pray and ask God to help you to know Him better as you study His Word.

Read the Bible passage (preferably without using commentaries).

Begin to answer the questions using your own words.

Questions are based on the New International Version (NIV) 2011 edition.

LESSON 12

1. What truth, verse or insight from last week's study of **Peter's Mother-in-law and Crippled Woman** was helpful to you?

SECTION I: Read Luke 18:1-8

2. In **V1**, what was Jesus about to tell His disciples, and what two reasons were given for this teaching?
3. a) From **V2-3**, who were the two main characters of the parable?

b) How was the judge described?

c) What was the widow's plea, and what character traits surface in her in **V3**?
4. a) As you read **V4a**, has the widow been heard? Explain.

b) In what situation have you literally been heard, but don't feel like you've truly been "heard"?
5. What finally caused the judge to grant her justice in **V4b-5**?
6. What are some possible reasons she was so persistent?

7. From **V1-8**, use your own words as you compare the attributes and attitudes of:

The judge in the parable

God as Judge

8. Do you think **V7-8a** imply that God answers all prayers when prayed with persistence? Why or why not?

9. In your own words, how do **V1** and **V8b** connect?

10. For what circumstance do you need to faithfully persist in prayer?

SECTION II: Read Mark 12:41-44

11. In **V41**, what was Jesus doing, and what did He see?

12. Who caught His eye in **V42**, and what was she doing?

13. From **V43**, what do you think Jesus meant when He called her offering “more”?

14. Ultimately what would her offering cost her according to **V44**?

15. Why do you think she was willing to put in so much? Do you think she wrestled with the decision?

16. List some reasons people today are willing to give of their money, time, or skills at great cost to themselves?

17. a) Recount a time when you gave what did not make sense by the world's standards, but you knew that God had nudged you to do it? What blessings did you see?

b) In what situation is He inviting you to give sacrificially of your financial resources today?

18. What "good" lessons do you learn from these two widows who many would say were in "bad or ugly" situations?

19. We saw two women living out their faith in very practical ways. Write a prayer for yourself along those lines.

DIGGING DEEPER

1. The two widows in this lesson had faith and put it in action. Comment on how their lives illustrate what **James 2:14-26** teaches.

2. How are you challenged by Abraham's story of faith in action from **Hebrews 11:17-19**?

3. Widows matter to God. What do you learn from **1 Timothy 5** about His care of widows?

V3 _____

V4, 8 _____

V5 _____

V9-10 _____

V11-15 _____

V16 _____

4. Suggested Memory Verse: **James 2:17**

