

**Sunday, November 7, 2021 – Easter Hill United Methodist  
Church All Saints Sunday**

**Bible Study – Mark 12:38-44  
“Everything She Had”**

Open with a word of prayer

**Gathering Time** (5-10 minutes) In groups of two or three, share a time you were the recipient of someone else’s generosity.

**Mark 12:38-44. Context.** This week's reading, the story of the “widow’s mite”, is taken from the events of Holy Week and resumes Jesus' usual attitude of criticism towards the hypocrisy of the religious leaders of his day in their desire for social standing, and towards the rich who don't really live the meaning of sacrifice. Following these verses is Jesus' lengthy discourse (ch. 13) on the events that will take place after Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection: the persecution of his followers, the destruction of the Temple, and the coming of the Son of Man on clouds of glory. The Gospel then concludes with an account of Jesus' last supper with his disciples, his trial, and his crucifixion. In other words, the story of the "widow's mite" is Jesus’ last word about Christian living in Mark's account.

**Read Mark 12:38-44**

What touches your heart, what do you hear in the scripture, what questions do you have, or what doesn’t make sense to you in the story?

Write down your thoughts or share your thoughts with the person or group you are with.

**Read Mark 12:38-44 again.**

**Some reflection questions – Write down your thoughts or share your thoughts with the person or group you are with.**

**Group Dialogue:**

- Discuss how stark a contrast Jesus makes between the scribes and the poor widow.
- How did the widow live a life that mattered?
- What might we learn about living a life that matters from this widow?
- How can the practices of giving and generosity be a sign of our trust in God?
- How can the practices of giving and generosity be countercultural?
- What have you learned about living a life that matters?

### **Closing Reflection Question**

How is this scripture calling you to change, to see, to be or what might it be calling you to do?

**Prayer** (10 minutes). Each person prays sharing their answer the following statements:

I ask God for....

I thank God for.....

**Sending Forth** (2 minutes). After all, have shared, pray the closing prayer. Ask for a volunteer to lead the group or read the following prayer in unison:

Giver of good and perfect gifts, your character is one who gives. As John 3:16 so famously reminds us, you have given yourself as a sign of your love for the world. As your followers, one of the ways we can most mimic your character is through acts of generosity. Give us the eyes to see the needs around us and the willingness to give of ourselves that others would know of your love. **Amen.**

And now we pray The Lord's Prayer....

Our Father who art in Heaven

hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,

on earth as it is in Heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us.

Lead us not into temptation

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power

and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.