

Study on Luke 20:45–21:4
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Passage (New Living Translation)

20:45 Then, with the crowds listening, he turned to his disciples and said, **46** “Beware of these teachers of religious law! For they like to parade around in flowing robes and love to receive respectful greetings as they walk in the marketplaces. And how they love the seats of honor in the synagogues and the head table at banquets. **47** Yet they shamelessly cheat widows out of their property and then pretend to be pious by making long prayers in public. Because of this, they will be severely punished.”

21:1 While Jesus was in the Temple, he watched the rich people dropping their gifts in the collection box. **2** Then a poor widow came by and dropped in two small coins.[a]

3 “I tell you the truth,” Jesus said, “this poor widow has given more than all the rest of them. **4** For they have given a tiny part of their surplus, but she, poor as she is, has given everything she has.”

Footnotes:

21:2 [a] Greek *two lepta* [the smallest of Jewish coins].

Questions

- How does Luke 20:45–21:4 connect with the story of Luke’s Gospel? How does it connect with the overall story of Scripture? What other passages in either Old Testament or New Testament either support or elaborate upon Luke 20:45–21:4?
- If we ignore Luke 20:45–21:4 and delete it from our Bibles, what is missing? Why is missing it a big deal?
- What jumps out the most as you read Luke 20:45–21:4? Why does it stand out to you so much?
- What questions does Luke 20:45–21:4 provoke in you as you read it? What answers can be found? How might further study help you?
- Religious leadership and participation is still plagued by hypocrisy today. Why do you think this is the case?
- Before we say too much about the hypocrites in Jesus’ day, how are we hypocritical in our own right? How does our hypocrisy, and the hypocrisy of Christians in general, affect the sharing of the Good News with the world?
- What are models of Christian trust and discipleship we can lift up to a world that largely equates Christians with hypocrites?
- What is one aspect of your life that you sense the Holy Spirit is addressing through Luke 20:45–21:4? How can you follow the Spirit’s prompting this week?