

## Questions for Reflection & Discussion

Drawn from “The Call to Give,” A Sermon on Mark 12:41-44

Pastor Nicoletti @ Faith Pres Tacoma

March 15, 2026 AM

1. Who is the most generous person you’ve known? Please share a story or example, and explain what made him or her tick.
2. In the sermon, Pastor Nicoletti engaged with an interpretation that sees this passage not as a commendation of the widow’s generosity but as a condemnation of the leadership’s avarice and apathy. Look again at the text: what evidence can you find for and against such an interpretation? In your opinion, is such an interpretation compatible with the more traditional reading of this passage as a commendation of the widow’s generosity? Why or why not?
3. You are talking with a fellow Christian who believes that tithing is not obligatory for Christians. He says, “Yes, it’s true that tithing was a requirement of the Mosaic Law. But we are Gentiles and Christians, living under the New Covenant, so we aren’t under the Mosaic Law anymore. While the New Testament does exhort Christians to generosity, it never requires Christians to give a specific amount or percentage. If a Christian wants to give 10%, that’s ok. But you can’t require me to give 10%; that’s legalism.” How would you respond?
4. In the sermon, Pastor Nicoletti connected the Christian practice of tithing with the Old Testament theme of “tribute.” Discuss 1) whether you think this is a legitimate connection 2) what the implications of such a connection might be.

5. If it's true that 1) the temple should have been financially supporting the widow and 2) that she gave everything she had to live on, then wouldn't it have made more sense for her to **keep** her money? In other words, what sense does it make for those who are **need** in charity to tithe or give?
  
6. Is it acceptable for a Christian to give his/her tithe to another place besides the local church he/she attends? Why or why not?
  
7. In a footnote to the sermon, Pastor Nicoletti acknowledged some of the reasons that make it hard to give generously to the Lord and others. Specifically, he pointed out how money brings security, comfort, and influence. What makes it hard for **you** to give generously?
  
8. When we are struggling to give generously, what should we remind ourselves of?
  
9. In terms of the practical aspects of budgeting for a tithe and for generosity, what have you found helpful? What advice would you offer to a younger person or couple who has not tithed consistently but acknowledges the need to change?
  
10. In the sermon, Pastor Nicoletti exhorted us to ask ourselves, "What parts of yourself or your life have you been holding back from him?" Spend a few minutes reflecting on this together.