**Pastor Demetric Felton Sr. \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_ \_ January 2, 2022**

**In God We Trust?**

Mark 12:38-44

**Key Truth:** Believers are to give in a generous and sacrificial way that does not call attention to themselves.

**The Widow’s Attitude On Giving:**

1. She had trust that God would meet her needs.

**Truths About Giving:**

1. Giving is not about equal amount but equal sacrifice.

2. Confidence in God to meet our needs gives us the faith to give

 to God’s Kingdom.

3. Financial giving is an act of worship and trust.

**Wrong Views Of Giving:**

1. We don’t give to get.

2. We don’t give out of fear of being cursed.

3. Giving isn’t a money issue but a heart and trust issue.

**Truths To Live By:**

1. For Jesus, the value of a gift is not the amount given, but the

 cost to the giver.

2. No gift is insignificant to Jesus.

3. Giving is an act of discipleship to Jesus. **2 Corinthians 8:8-9**

**Taking It Beyond The Walls:** Thank God that we have a model for sacrifice and generosity in Christ. Pray that God would show us new ways to be generous with everything that we have been given.

**Connection Group Homework**

Looking back at your notes, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

Why did Jesus commend the widow? How much did she give?

Does Jesus’ commendation of the widow imply anything about His view of the gifts by the rich? If so, what?

If you had to summarize Jesus’ teaching regarding giving in one statement, what would it be?

Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-15: Understanding what it means to give joyfully, generously, and sacrificially is no small challenge. What do we learn from Paul’s words about the Macedonian church’s approach to giving? How were they able to put all three of these character qualities into action?

Read Philippians 4:10-13: One of the keys to building generosity into our lives is learning to be content with what we have. As most of us know, this kind of contentment can be a challenge. What insight and hope does Paul give us in moving toward this kind of contentment?

How can the principles in Matthew 6:25-27, 33-34 help us grow in our ability to be content with either much or little?

How can we encourage one another to be authentic in our faith and sacrificial in our giving?