



**Anglican**  
Church Southern Queensland

**St Matthew's Holland Park  
Weekly Bulletin 10th**

**November 2024**

*This week's Revd. Morris'*

*message: **Can we, as a  
parish, go 'all in' for God?***



In today's Gospel, Jesus invites us to reconsider our financial motivations and priorities. He contrasts the apparent attitudes of the Scribes [ the learned Jewish men who copied, interpreted and administered the Mosaic Law for their communities] with that of a poor widow. Widows in Jesus' times were often poor, dependent upon family and the charity of their local community to survive and thus vulnerable and open to exploitation from those in power [like the scribes].

It is interesting that Jesus uses the expression 'devouring widow's houses' in verse 40. The same word is used in Mark 4:4 concerning the birds who 'gobble up' the seed in the parable of the sower. Presumably, this serious charge refers to some group of scribe's unjust and abusive fees for their legal representation for a widow in a legal dispute. Under the Mosaic Law poor widows were to be protected and cared for by the community and their wider families [ e.g. see Deuteronomy 24:17 ff ] Thus, it is particularly egregious for a person in a position of power to take advantage of widows for personal gain.

Nevertheless, these Scribes were honoured by their communities and treated with great respect. Jesus accuses them of revelling in their own self importance and feelings of superiority. Their hearts and motivations were invested in promoting their self aggrandisement. By comparison, the poor widow was commended by Jesus for her humility and pious generosity.

By the way, how could anybody know how much people were donating to the temple? Well, thirteen wooden boxes with trumpet-shaped bronze funnels to guide the coins into the box were placed under the colonnades of the Court of the Women in the Temple. This area was the actual Treasury. The sound these coins made against the metal indicated how much people offered to the Temple. So, people milling around the entrance to the temple would hear the sounds of the donations, both large and small, and could see who were depositing what amount of funds.

It is instructive that this reading follows the scene where Jesus answers his enemies who were seeking to trap him concerning payment of taxes. '*Render to Caesar what is Caesar's and render to God what is God's*' [ Mark 12: 17] So again, in this week's readings, Jesus was asking the people and His disciples to examine their priorities concerning wealth and their use of money.

***Well, what does this mean for us today?***

*Jesus looked not to the amount of the donation but rather to the motivations of the donee.*

The wealthy gave from their surplus ... and were perhaps seeking recognition, soft power over others [since they would be afraid to get such a large donor 'offside'] and thanks for the large sums they donated. The poor widow simply, and without fanfare, gave

sacrificially in love the amount she felt God had asked of her at that moment, namely - everything !

***I wonder what we all would have done if we were in the poor widow's situation?*** We could easily justify giving nothing [ or perhaps just putting in 1 of her 2 coins ] since our need was so great. ***She didn't prevaricate .. she went 'all in'.*** She was determined to literally throw herself solely upon God's mercy for her family to survive. *I wonder how often we may 'hold something back' from God [ be it from our time , talents or treasure ] because we may need it later?* This is such a relevant reading for this our stewardship season. ***I wonder what our own stewardship motivations may be concerning God's work in our parish? Also, can we as a parish go 'all in' for God? Gospel reading: Mark 12: 38-44.***



**Some resources to dig deeper:** <https://www.workingpreacher.org/commentaries/revised-common-lectionary/ordinary-32-2/commentary-on-mark-1238-44-2#:~:text=Another way of reading this,needs always to give everything;https://www.gotquestions.org/scribes-Jesus.html; https://bibleinterp.arizona.edu/articles/widows-new-testament-period; https://www.ritmeyer.com/2015/05/15/the-treasury-of-the-temple-in-jerusalem/; https://coinsandhistoryfoundation.org/2021/08/12/the-widows-mite-the-true-value-of-a-gift/ ; https://pcpe.smu.edu/blog/all-in-reflections-on-mark-12-38-44>

**Upcoming Parish Activities: Remembrance Day service @ Holland Park RSL Monday 10:00 AM Midweek service : Wednesday 10:30 a.m; Every Sunday Guitars and Ukulele lessons at 3 p.m; Bible Study Wednesday at 7 pm and Friday at 10:30 am; Readings for Next Sunday:** 1 Samuel 1:4-10; for the Psalm:The Song of Hannah APBA p429 [1 Samuel 2:1-8]; Hebrews 10:11-25; Mark 13:1-11 ***NB AGM Part 1 will be held after service on 1st December. Please prayerfully consider if you are being called to be a part of the leadership team at St Matt's - see Revd Morris or the Wardens for more details.***

**Parish Directory: Revd Morris Rangiwai:** 0449 557 351; [morris.Rangiwai@anglicanchurchsq.org.au](mailto:morris.Rangiwai@anglicanchurchsq.org.au). [NB He is on leave as from 11/11/24 until 22/11/24. Contact Randal or Patricia Collins for any Pastoral care matters.]

**Wardens:** Heather Walker: 0411556 279; [hezzie16@gmail.com](mailto:hezzie16@gmail.com) [NB She is on leave from 9/11/24 until the 30/11/24].

Randal Dennings: 0408 878711; [randaldennings@gmail.com](mailto:randaldennings@gmail.com)

**Bank Details:** Holland Park Anglican Church Anfin BSB 704 901; Acct: 00000760.

**Parish website :** <https://www.stmatthewshollandpark.com/>

**Parish Private Facebook site :** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/292308270851142> ; **Public Site:** <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61556418523933> ;

**Tipper's Treasure's Facebook site:** <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61559040358754>

#### **ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY:**

We acknowledge and pay respect to the Turrbal and Jagera Peoples, the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we gather today. We acknowledge their continued spiritual connection to country and surrounding land, sky and water. We pay our respect to their Elders, past present and emerging and pray that we may continue to learn from and nurture one another in the spirit of Reconciliation.