**“Extravagant Generosity”**

Going deeper in Matthew 22:36-40 & Luke 21:1-4

**INTRODUCTION**

In the first passage (Mt. 22:36-40) Jesus is being questioned by the religious leaders. In the second passage (Lk 21:1-4) Jesus is teaching in the temple courts. The disciples and the public are there listening.

**READ** – *Read (passage) aloud. Read it several times. Listen for what the Spirit of God is saying, don’t just think about it.*

Matthew 22:36-40

36 “Teacher which command in God’s Law is the most important?” 37 Jesus said, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart (passionate desire), with all your soul (breath of life), and all your mind (intelligence). 38 This is first and greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ 40 Everything in God’s Law and Prophets hangs on these.

Luke 21:1-4

1 Jesus looked up and saw the rich people dropping their offerings into the temple treasury. 2 Then he saw a poor widow put in two pennies. 3 He said, “The plain truth is that this widow has by far given the largest offering today. 4 All these others gave offerings that they’ll never miss, but she gave extravagantly what she couldn’t afford.

**ENGAGE** – *Questions for going deeper. God is speaking… to you.*

1. With the commandments in the first passage is there any area of our lives that should be untouched by Jesus commands? In that passage the man only asked Jesus for the single and greatest commandment, but Jesus adds another one. Why do you think He did that?

2. Why does Jesus “your God” which is a term of endearment and belonging rather than saying “the God?

3. What has helped you to love God with all your heart, soul, and mind? What has helped you to do this?

4. In the passage from Luke how do you think the widow felt as she gave her offering? What do you think it felt like for the nine people who first started our church in the Odd Fellows Hall?

5. What does the widow’s extravagant generosity say about her faith? What helps you to be generous?

**PRAY** – *God has spoken. So, reply.*

\*Thank the Lord Jesus for all of his good gifts to you. Name them.

\*As the Lord to give you the faith to trust him with your needs.

\*Ask him to show you how he wants you to be generous with what he has given you.

**LIVE** – *This is where the rubber hits the road.*

The widow who seems insignificant is very significant in Jesus’ thinking. She is extravagantly generous. How are you being called to be extravagantly generous this week?