



Ten minutes with Luke 21

The Widow's offering

How many likes?



Aim: To consider how damaging comparisons can be, and to recognize that “only God knows the heart.”

Setting your sights: Prepare some A6 size cut out hearts from page three; one per person



While eating lunch: Have the painting up as young people arrive. Ask “What was your latest Facebook post, Instagram or Tweet that got the most attention?” “Who do you follow on social media, and why do you think they’re popular?”



Activity: Have everyone post something on their favourite social media platform, and then compare who has the most likes (etc) at the end of the session.

Read the Passage: [Luke 21:1-4](#)



Discuss: We may have different criteria in Scotland today, but in every culture and era there have been ways of comparing people to decide who is “better”!

- *What are the criteria in your school for what makes someone really well-liked, popular and cool? What would make someone really unpopular?*

In this passage, Jesus compares people from the top and bottom of Jewish society – a widow and “rich people.” – but surprises his listeners by saying how pleased God is with the widow!

- *Do you think God is possibly more pleased with the least popular people in our society? Why or why not?*



Respond: Read 1 Samuel 16:7 – “For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.”

Hand out cut-out hearts and have them write down what they think God pleases God (what God really values) on the heart... encourage them to reference any Bible verses they might think of. Come back together and write (on a board or flip chart) any attributes that come up multiple times – hopefully you have three or four words that were repeated. Challenge the young people: are these things we truly value?



Prayer: Pray over the three or four words that your group settled on; that you would all start to truly value what God values, and not use the worlds criteria to compare ourselves!



***Activity:** Check in on the social media posts everyone made earlier. Who has the most likes (etc)? Now challenge the kids to post a verse from the Bible, perhaps even 1 Samuel 16:7... do they think this will get tons of likes and attention?? Probably not!



Background information to help you and your group with the passage, the painting and the film

[Luke 21:1-4](#) can be found in **Dear Theo** on p110, “As Jesus looked up” to p111, “nothing left to live on.”



It's Holy Week and Jesus has been teaching in the temple courtyard for some time. (20v1) Many questions are asked and some answered; warnings are given.

Just before leaving the temple for the last time, he highlight this little incident of a nameless woman contrasting her level of giving with the rich people of her day.

Widow's Offering, 2018, Oil on Canvas, 30" x 40" Iain Campbell's Exhibition Notes



The Widow's Offering is such a well-known story, often used in sermons to describe how we should give all we can with our money, time and talents to church, just as the anonymous widow gave her last few coins.

Giving a face to this woman suddenly sparks questions... Was it right for her to give away all her money? How would she survive? Should not be a duty of care from the faith community to look after this widow?

During the painting of this portrait, Iain was asked several times, “Why does she have 3 coins in her hand? Should she not have two, just like in the story?”

She has three coins in her hand, because that's exactly what Janine (the model) had in her pocket.

The Widow's Offering, Gospel Sketchbook YouTube Channel A breakdown of the accompanying film by Wiseman Films



0:00 to 1:02 Janine, the model for this painting, reads the passage in front of the finished painting.

1:02 to 3:12 Iain Campbell tells us something about Janine. He also uses the story of her coins to comment that he is interpreting rather than copying the story.

3:12 to 9:30 Janine, sitting in the church with the painting behind her tells her background and thoughts on the Bible passage with the term “a Widow's Mite” being in common parlance. She tries to interpret the passage from the widow's perspective using the painting and her teasing sense of humour.

Clips of Iain painting mix in as usual.



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scottishbiblesociety.org/our-work/deartheo/

paintinglukesgospel.org.uk



idcampbell.com/gallery/gospel-sketchbook/



youtube.com/watch?v=F5UNuTsvPOU&index=10&list=PLRM6o_-dTf6sKOBtCCCEoPJhJleTLI2LJ

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