

## Study Guide

Monday, October 19- Friday, October 23

**Monday, October 19.** Jesus was teaching in the Temple and he saw the collection being passed. **Read Mark 12:41-44.** Jesus called the disciples over and pointed out a particular widow who was giving everything she had. Her giving made a difference in the community because she gave sacrificially. Has anyone sacrificed something so that you could have something? What was that like for you? How has this generous person affected your own vision of what matters in life?

**Tuesday, October 20.** Jesus tells a story about a master giving each of his servants a share of an investment to take care of while he was gone. When he came back, he wanted to know what they did. **Read Matthew 25:14-21.** This parable reminds us of the mind-altering reality that all that we own belongs to God. Like the Master, God has given us things in life that we are in charge of. We are simply the stewards taking care of a share. What have you been put “in charge of” in your life? How are you managing it?

**Wednesday, October 21** – Jesus tells a story of a King’s values. **Read Matthew 25: 34-40.** People would answer, “When did we see you?” The King or Christ answers, *“Whenever you did one of these things to someone overlooked or ignored, that was me—you did it to me.”* One motivation to be generous is to think the person may be Christ. What moves you or motivates you to be generous? With whom are you most generous?

**Thursday, October 22–** Zacchaeus, a head tax accountant, responded with great joy after his encounter with Jesus. **Read Luke 19:1-10.** When Jesus wanted to go to Zacchaeus’ house to eat with him, Zacchaeus was so excited. Jesus was generous with his time and his reputation. With great joy, Zacchaeus exclaimed that he would give up half of his income to the poor and change the way he lived. Have you ever been changed by someone else’s generosity toward you? When have you given something that brought you great joy? What did you give? Why did it touch you so deeply? How might you continue to give in the area that gives you joy?

**Friday, October 23** – The church in Acts practiced generosity. **Read Acts 4:32-35.** They set apart or consecrated the money they earned to care for each person in need. They were a generous church. What ways would your life change if you were defined by generosity?