

# Church of God Sunday School

## PARABLES OF JESUS: THE WIDOW'S MITE

Mark 12:38-44; Luke 20:1-2, 45-47; Luke 21:1-4

One day as Jesus was teaching in the temple and preaching the Gospel, the chief priests, scribes, and elders came to Jesus and asked Him, "Tell us, by what authority doest thou these things?" Instead of directly answering their question, Jesus began to tell a parable and teach about the Kingdom of God.

As Jesus was teaching, He told the people to "beware of the scribes," some of the same people who had questioned Jesus' authority. The scribes were men who copied, explained, and taught the old Law. Scribes were considered very important and well educated. Why do you think Jesus said to beware of them?

Jesus described the scribes in this way: "The scribes . . . desire to walk in long robes, and love greetings in the markets, and the highest seats in the synagogues [*SIN-uh-gog*; a temple or tabernacle], and the chief rooms at feasts." Does that sound like men who are proud?

What else did Jesus say about them? "Which devour [greedily take] widows' houses." Often a widow (a woman whose husband had died) was easily deceived because she was grieving for her loss. Some scribes would take advantage of this and, through deception, take a widow's property for their own.

Lastly, Jesus said the scribes pray long prayers to show off and sound important to those who might be listening. What will be their end or punishment?

Then Jesus "looked up, and saw the rich men casting their gifts into the treasury." In the temple there were offering boxes where people could leave their money. People who had great wealth could easily bring a gift for the treasury.

Jesus also saw a poor widow. She did not have very much to give. She put "two mites" in the treasury. A mite was the smallest, least valuable coin at that time.

These two mites that the widow gave were all the money that she had. How would the widow provide for herself? No doubt, she was trusting God to provide for her needs. She was putting God first, believing that He would take care of her.

Jesus compared the offerings of the rich men and the offering of the poor widow. Who do you think gave the most? It seems that the offerings of the rich men would be greater, for they gave more money. But Jesus said "this poor widow hath cast in more than they all." How could that be?

Jesus knew that the widow was giving all that she had. She was making the greater sacrifice. The rich men could give much without making it hard on themselves, but when the widow gave, it might have meant going without food or something else that she needed.

God is not as concerned with the amount of what we give to

Him as He is concerned with the intent of our hearts. Do we give so that other people will notice and be impressed? Do we give because we have to? Or do we give and wish we could give more?

There are different ways to give to God. We can give our money and time to God. We can also give ourselves to Him. What gift are you bringing to God?

~~~~~  
**MEMORY VERSE:**

*"She of her want did cast in all that she had, even all her living."  
—Mark 12:44*





**Jesus compared the offerings of the rich men  
and the offering of the poor widow.**

How much did the poor widow give? \_\_\_\_\_

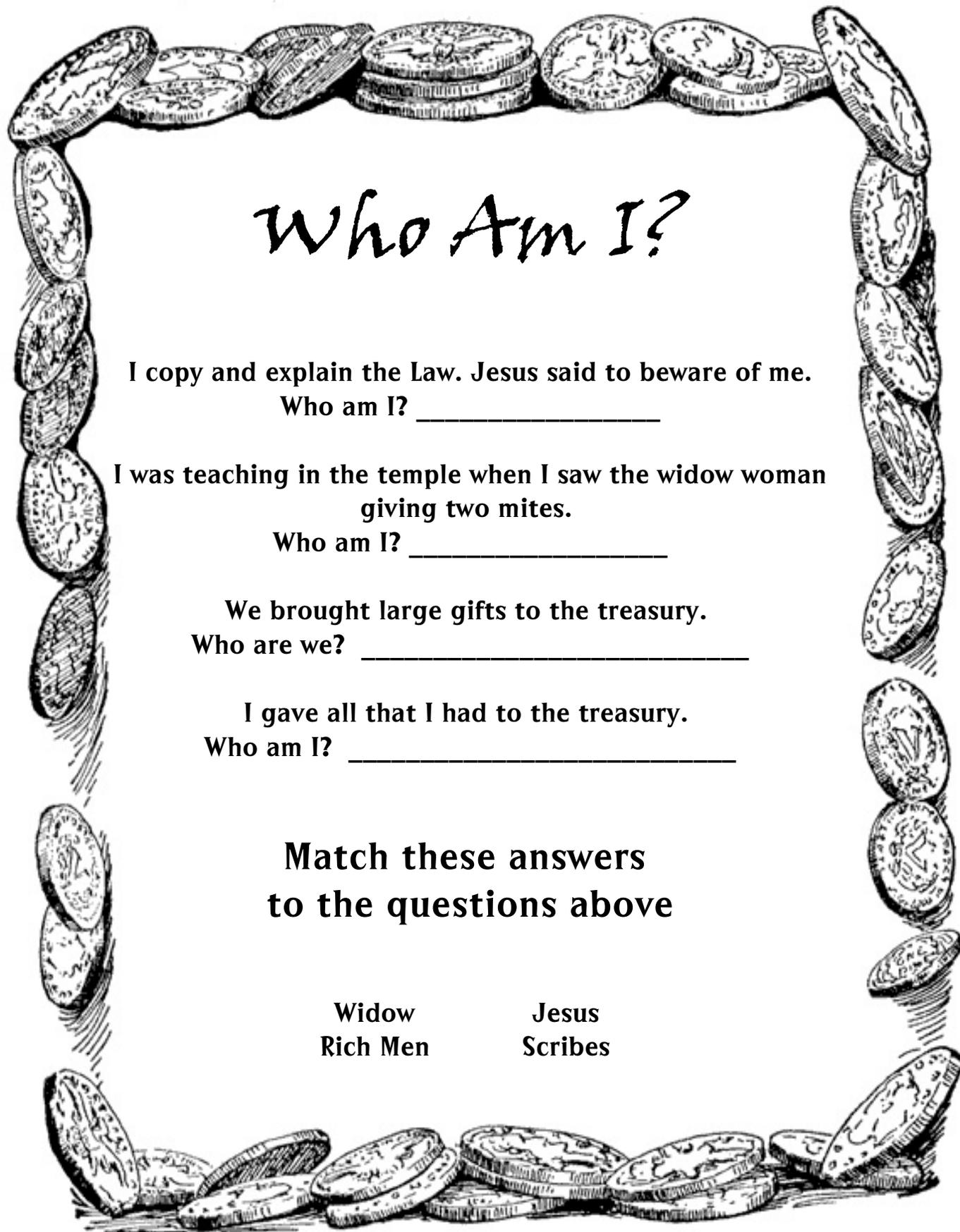
Jesus knew the widow had given \_\_\_\_\_ that she had.

The widow was making the greater \_\_\_\_\_ .

What are you bringing to God? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_





# Who Am I?

I copy and explain the Law. Jesus said to beware of me.  
Who am I? \_\_\_\_\_

I was teaching in the temple when I saw the widow woman  
giving two mites.  
Who am I? \_\_\_\_\_

We brought large gifts to the treasury.  
Who are we? \_\_\_\_\_

I gave all that I had to the treasury.  
Who am I? \_\_\_\_\_

Match these answers  
to the questions above

Widow  
Rich Men

Jesus  
Scribes



# The Widow's Mite