



Sermon Discussion Guide

The Widow in the Temple - Tim Knipp

March 8, 2026

Hook - Getting to know one another

- *How is everyone doing this week? Add other questions to get to know one another, especially ones related to the topic in the sermon.*
- *We serve a God of justice, but sometimes He feels silent. What feels unfair in the world and unanswered? It is good to name these things.*
 - *But don't stay here in this intro... lay them at Jesus' feet. How?*
 - *Write them on pieces of paper and put them in a hat or a bowl and pray over them*
 - *Collectively respond to each "unfairness" by saying aloud but God is Just.*
 - *Spend some time visually reflecting on these unfairnesses by looking at an image of Christ on the cross. There are many images on the internet that can be pulled up for reference.*
 - *The Crucifixion by Paolo Veneziano*
 - *The Crucifixion by Giovanni di Paolo di Grazia*
- *Sufjan Stevens wrote a song called ["For the Widows in Paradise..."](#) and it is a blurring of hope and sadness in what is done/could be done for the widows and orphans and Jesus' repeating response "I did everything for you." Listen as a group. Sometimes listening to a song does not require another response.*

Book - Scripture

- *Read the scripture passages and discuss to understand **what the text is saying**:*
- *Mark 12:38 - 13:2*
 - *Reread the text in two or three versions. NIV, ESB, Message and note running themes.*
 - *Reidentify the connections that Tim made on Sunday. Places where Mark connected OT stories and prophecies with Jesus' life. How does Mark directly connect these OT passages and his story here?*
 - *Deuteronomy 27:19*



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- Jeremiah 7:6-7
- Malachi 3: 1, 5
- *How would this story have been heard by the disciples, by the followers of Jesus, by the teachers of the law?*

Look - Connections to our world today

- *This section focuses on implications about **what this text means** about what's wrong in the world, about trusting God, about who God is, etc.*
 - *Tim spoke about the temple devouring the widow. Not one person, not one priest or scribe, but the temple. How has/is the christian church devoured or is devouring those like the widow in Mark?*
 - *How do you think the priests and scribes had justified their actions at the time? Does that relate to our current time and place?*
 - *How should the church act in our day? What words should ring true to us?*
 - *The justice of God, the love of God, the call to follow his way, the pursuit of the things that broke Jesus' heart.*
 - *Acts 6:1 shows direct response to widows being ignored. How can the church identify those in our community that need help? How can we respond?*

Took - Personal Application

- *This application focuses on **how God is calling us to respond**. This could be personally, as a family, small group, or church. It could be something to believe, to meditate on, to say or do this week.*
 - *Who do you identify with in this story and why? Seek to reflect honestly, perhaps discuss as a group, or write in journal or notes.*
 - *Disciples*
 - *Priests and scribes*
 - *Widow*



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- *Who are the “widows” in your life? Your family’s life? Your neighborhood?*
- *Asking hard questions of yourself is good, but asking hard questions of a God who truly cares is also a balm. What questions does this week’s message bring up in you that you would ask Jesus?*
 - *Musicians for eons have done this through their art. Two of my favorites are below. If you’re feeling particularly music-based in your small group, play one aloud, or play one of your own favorites.*
 - [Drew Miller - Hidden](#)
 - [Jon Guerra - Hiding Lord](#)

Time of Prayer