LOST IN HIS ARMS

Even though Pastor Pavel Goia’s father was a prosperous construction contractor during the Romanian Communist era, the family never had a fancy car, expensive furniture, or a big house. “If things were better,” he would say to his wife, “we would promote God’s work even further. Those are the treasures we have, because we don’t take anything except souls to heaven. So let’s invest in souls.”

One time, when he was building a church, he came home with $25,000 after putting on a new roof for a school—a huge amount in Romania at that time. So his wife asked him, “How much should we give? Ten percent?” Pavel’s dad said, “No, no, no! Give it all.” Then his wife said, “Let’s keep $2,000 for the house, for emergencies.” He agreed and said, “OK, keep 10 percent and give 90 percent.” He would say, “Who gave us the money? Who gave us health? He is going to give us more again. Give it all. Give it to the church.” And that didn’t happen just one time, said Pavel. “It was usually the case. We got used to constantly hearing this again and again until it was anchored into our system.”

This week we will focus on some aspects of giving related to the account of the poor widow, who became an extreme giver by giving all. Extreme giving is a joyful adventure of faith for those who have lost themselves in the Savior’s arms, who have nothing else to fear, whose eyes and hearts are already stepping in that “land that is fairer than day.” *

*Adapted from 2020 Tithes and Offerings readings: https://stewardship.adventist.org/duplicate-of-prem%E2%80%99s-sacrifice.pdf
Write out Mark 12:41–44 from the translation of your choice. You may also rewrite the passage in your own words, or outline or mind-map it.
Go back to your scribed text and study the passage.

**Circle** repeated words/ phrases/ideas

**Underline** words/phrases that are important and have meaning to you

**Draw Arrows** to connect words/ phrases to other associated or related words/phrases

What special insights do your marks seem overall to point to?

Memorize your favorite verse in Mark 12:41–44. Write it out multiple times to help with memorization.

What can we do to avoid the prevalent trend of suspecting human institutions? At the same time, what steps can we take if we suspect that something is wrong in institutional administration?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/stw10-3
After looking at your scribed and annotated text, what special insights do your marks seem to point to overall?

What questions emerge after studying this passage? What parts are difficult?

What other principles and conclusions do you find?

Are my offerings a grateful response to God’s giving, or an attempt to earn merit? What can those who do not have the right motivation to give do?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/stw10-4
inSpect

What relationship do the following verses have with the primary passage?

Hebrews 11:4
Acts 10:4
2 Corinthians 9:7
1 Corinthians 16:2
2 Corinthians 8:11, 12
Deuteronomy 16:17
Luke 12:48
Jeremiah 17:10

What other verses come to mind in connection with Mark 12:41–44?

Review your memorized verse from Mark 12:41–44.
Does your stewardship change your connection with Jesus, or does your connection with Jesus determine your stewardship? Can it work both ways?

What is He saying to you through these texts?

How do you see Jesus differently or see Him again?

Prayer: How do you respond to seeing Jesus in this way?

Meditate on Mark 12:41–44 again and look for where Jesus is.
Review the memory verse. How does it apply to your life this week?

After this week’s study, what do you need to do?

What do others around you need to do?

Read more inSight from the Spirit of Prophecy at www.inversebible.org/stw10-7
Is "helping to spread the gospel" the best motivation for giving offerings, or there should be an even higher motivation than that?

According to God’s system of giving, we are supposed to give a proportion of the income as offering. Why, then, is there no information in the Bible about what is the ideal percentage to be given? What does it indicate? (See Prov. 4:18.)

Have you ever purposed (2 Cor. 9:7) a percentage of your income to be gratefully returned as offering? What percentage of any income or increase is the Holy Spirit suggesting you now regularly return to Him as offerings? ___ percent

Which one requires from the worshiper a higher commitment and more surrender: returning tithe or regular/systematic offerings? Why?