

August 23, 2026



CHECKPOINTS



Following Jesus: More Than A Checklist

“Give”

Luke 21:1-4 (NLT)

While Jesus was in the Temple, he watched the rich people dropping their gifts in the collection box. ²Then a poor widow came by and dropped in two small coins. ³“I tell you the truth,” Jesus said, “this poor widow has given more than all the rest of them. ⁴For they have given a tiny part of their surplus, but she, poor as she is, has given everything she has.”

Sermon Summary:

Some of us grew up with a version of faith that looked a lot like a checklist. Go to church—check. Try to be a good person—check. Pray when life gets hard—check. Over time, without even realizing it, following Jesus can begin to feel like just another box to check in an already busy life. But Jesus never invited anyone into that kind of relationship. He didn’t say, “Fit Me in when it’s convenient.” He didn’t say, “Add Me to your list.” In Luke 9:23, Jesus said, “If anyone would come after Me, let him deny himself, take up his cross daily, and follow Me.” Following Jesus isn’t about completing a religious checklist; it’s about walking with Him every day.

Checkpoints aren’t boxes to earn God’s approval—they’re markers that help us evaluate whether we’re actually growing as followers of Jesus. They remind us to keep moving in the right direction, taking intentional steps toward becoming more like Christ.

Ice Breaker Questions:

1. What is the most meaningful gift you've ever received that probably didn't cost very much?
2. Who is someone you know that models generosity well? What stands out about them?
3. What's something you've learned is more valuable than money?
4. If you could support one ministry or cause with unlimited resources, what would it be?
5. When you hear the word generosity, what is the first thing that comes to mind?

Objective Questions:

1. Where was Jesus when He observed people giving their offerings?
2. Who did Jesus notice among those bringing their gifts?
3. What did the rich people contribute?
4. How much did the poor widow give?
5. According to Jesus, who gave more?



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6. What reason did Jesus give for saying the widow gave more?
7. What did the rich give out of?
8. What did the widow give out of?
9. According to verse 4, what did the widow give up?
10. Who was Jesus speaking to when He explained the significance of the widow's gift?

Interpretive Questions:

1. Why do you think Jesus measured generosity differently than the people around Him?
2. What does the widow's offering reveal about her trust in God?
3. Why is it significant that Jesus noticed the widow when everyone else likely overlooked her?
4. What does this passage teach us about God's perspective on our giving?
5. How does this story challenge the way our culture typically measures success, wealth, and generosity?

Application Questions:

1. The Checkpoint this week is Give: Trusting God enough to live generously with what He's given you. In what ways does your giving reflect your trust in God?
2. Besides money, what has God entrusted to you (time, abilities, influence, possessions) that you can use more generously?
3. Is there an area where fear or uncertainty makes it difficult for you to be generous? What would trusting God look like there?
4. How can you grow from seeing generosity as an occasional act to making it a regular way of life?
5. What is one specific step of generosity God may be inviting you to take this week?