

The Widow's Offering Interview

CHARACTERS: 6 male, 1 female, 1 either (reporter), as many extra donors/crowd people as you wish

COSTUMES: Biblical. Widow should have ragged clothing and Pharisee should be immaculate.

PROPS: Trumpet (or even a kazoo for laughs), bag (of money), basket with “5 loaves, 2 fish”

SETTINGS: Jerusalem at the temple, a remote place

RUN TIME: 6 minutes

SCRIPTURES: Based on Lk. 9, 21, Mk. 6, Mt 14, John 6, 2 Cor. 9

FK Reading level: 5.0

At rise: Jesus is sitting with disciples as people enter to contribute at stage left. REPORTER is stage right. Center stage is bare so it can be used for the feeding of the 5000 scene.

REPORTER: Reporter Rhonda here live at the temple. Jesus is here and is watching the crowd put their money into the temple treasury. *(Pharisee and trumpeter enter. Loud trumpet blast)* That was loud. Everybody is watching now. *(PHARISEE hams up donating, Jesus just shakes his head)* I see a Pharisee making a big show of his donation. Let's interview him. Sir, what's with the trumpet?

PHARISEE: *(Obviously lying, very self righteous and snooty)* Oh that. Just a coincidence, I'm sure. Although it did seem to draw people's attention to the fact I was donating a rather LARGE sum.

REPORTER: Do you always blow a trumpet when you give?

PHARISEE: I didn't blow it. That's not important. *(Widow enters and slightly bumps PHARISEE as she passes to donation area. Pharisee reacts with disgust that he was jostled)* The fact that I tithe is what's important. I even count out the teeniest, tiniest seeds my wife uses to cook with to make sure God gets his 10%.

REPORTER: The lady who is donating now...? *(WIDOW begins exit upstage of the REPORTER towards stage left, but will stop to pray just before actual exit)*

PHARISEE: A widow. Such a shame that we'll have to foreclose on her house soon. She just can't make the payments. I'm surprised she's putting in those two very small copper coins, worth only a fraction of a penny. That's all she has to live on. *(Jesus stands)*

REPORTER: Looks like Jesus is about to say something. *(Turns attention to Jesus and PHARISEE is obviously displeased that he is no longer the center of attention.)*

JESUS: I tell you the truth, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on. *(JESUS is seated)*

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PHARISEE: As I was saying about MY giving (*REPORTER completely ignores him and leaves to catch the widow. Widow finishes prayer as REPORTER catches up with her*)

REPORTER: I understand your house is about to be foreclosed on.

WIDOW: Yes, things have been tough since my husband died. (*PHARISEE, JESUS and others exit. Those playing double roles can alter their appearance or change*)

REPORTER: So why didn't you keep your tiny coins to pay on your house?

WIDOW: I wanted to give at the temple. I give what I have decided in my heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

REPORTER: I can understand going beyond the 10% required by law but couldn't you have given one coin and kept the other? I mean, that would have been 50%. Jesus said you gave everything you had to live on. That's 100%

WIDOW: Yes. Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.

REPORTER: So you believe God will bless you for your faith?

WIDOW: Of course he will. But it is more than that. God can take a little and make a lot.

REPORTER: (*confused*) I'm not sure I follow.

WIDOW: Did you hear about Jesus feeding 5000 people?

REPORTER: Yes, but I didn't cover that story.

WIDOW: I was there. I saw the whole thing. Let me tell you about it. (*others enter and prepare to reenact the feeding of the 5000*)

WIDOW: A huge crowd had gathered in a remote place to hear Jesus preach and heal the sick. Jesus had compassion on us because we were kind of lost – like a sheep without a shepherd., because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching us many things.

Lights off on WIDOW and REPORTER while the feeding of the 5000 is reenacted. Lights up on reenactors)

PHILIP: This is a remote place, and it's already very late. Send the people away so they can go to the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat. (*WIDOW places herself in the scene*)

JESUS: You give them something to eat.

PHILIP: That would take eight months of a man's wages!

JUDAS: Are we to go and spend that much on bread and give it to them to eat?

ANDREW: Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?

BOY: You may have them, sir.

JESUS: Thank you. Have the people sit down in groups of about 50 each.

WIDOW: So we sat down. There were 5000 men there – 10 groups of 50, plus groups of women and children. Jesus then took the loaves and gave thanks.

JESUS: *(to heavens)* Thank you father for blessing us with food. And bless the giver, the young boy, who gave all he had. *(to disciples)* Distribute this to those who are seated, giving them as much as they want. *(Disciples pass out food then return to Jesus)* Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted. *(Disciples gather)*

ANDREW: *(with amazement)* Lord, we have filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten! *(WIDOW withdraws from scene and moves to stand next to REPORTER)*

CROWD PERSON 1: Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world.

CROWD PERSON 2: Let us crown him king! *(Lights out on scene, lights up on REPORTER and WIDOW)*

WIDOW: That day changed me forever. By giving his all to Jesus, a young boy fed thousands of people with five small loaves and two small fish. If Jesus can do that, just think what he can accomplish with my two coins. If I did something with them, they would only go so far. *(Shows small distance with two fingers about 2 inches apart)*. But if Jesus gets a hold of them...

REPORTER: *(understanding)* There is no limit on what those two small coins can do. I get it. Everyone is blessed when we give to God.

WIDOW: Absolutely.