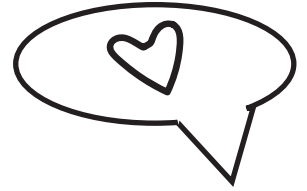




Revive Devotional – June 10th, 2020 Understanding Where We Come From



Hi Revive Family,

This week, we want to take a step back and consider our own perspective and point of view, and how that is shaped by our background, cultural heritage, and past experiences. The passage this week is Mark 12:38-44. Often, the story of the widow putting in her offering to the temple treasury becomes a lesson about how to be generous or how to give sacrificially. But perhaps Jesus is thinking about more than just the widow when he observes her putting in her offering – maybe what Jesus is thinking about is how this widow's situation is impacted by others in her society, namely the teachers of the law.

And so as we read this passage this week, let's think critically about how this woman's story intersects with the stories of those around her. And once we do that, let's go a step further and think about how our story is impacted by our own background and upbringing.

Here are some reflection questions for this week:

Reflection on the passage:

1. Take a moment and think about the stories and backgrounds of each of the characters in this passage.
 - a. The widow
 - b. The teachers of the law
 - c. Those who are rich and putting in their offering
 - d. The disciples
 - e. Jesus
2. Why do we think Jesus called his disciples and made the observation he made about the widow putting in her offering?

Personal reflection questions:

1. What would we say about our own story? What are some of the significant parts of our background that have shaped who we are? Things we could consider are:
 - a. Our race and ethnicity
 - b. Our gender
 - c. Our economic status
 - d. Our family unit
 - e. Our education
2. With that in mind, let's think about how we have been dealing with the recent events in our country – from the protests happening on racial injustice, to how we've been engaging with the pandemic. And how might our responses to these things be shaped by our story and background?