

**Scripture Passage:** Luke 20: 45- 21: 4

**Story Point:** There was once a watermelon farmer who left some of her watermelons in the field too long. On the outside they looked fine, but inside they were overripe and had begun to rot. The farmer picked them anyway, washed them all by hand, and put a shiny coat of wax on them. At the market, she put the rotten melons out front with a sign that said “Sun-Ripened Watermelons.” On the rest of the crop, which were not rotten, she wrote another sign that simply said “Watermelons.” When customers compared the fruit, most chose to purchase the rotten melons because they looked good on the outside and had a fancy name. By the time they were at home and cut them open to find a rotten core, the farmer was long gone.

In our passage today, Jesus warned people against being like the teachers of the law. Like the watermelons, they looked good on the outside, but were insincere and hypocritical on the inside. Jesus wasn't fooled by how they looked on the outside and he knew what was inside their hearts. Jesus goes on to tell us about watching both the rich people and a widow give an offering. The rich people were able to give large amounts of money, but are still left with lots of money to live on. The widow gives two small coins (worth very little), but she gives everything that she has. Jesus tells those listening that the widow has given more because she has given all that she has and is solely depending on God to provide for her.

*(illustration and thoughts taken from Old Story New by Marty Machowski)*

**Discussion Questions:**

- What was wrong with the teachers of the law?
- How did Jesus know about the sins of the teachers of the law?
- Can you think of a time when you did something “good” that others praised you for, but it was really done from a selfish motive?
- Who put money into the offering box?
- How was the widow's offering different from the others?
- How should the widow's example affect the way we live & give?

