Sermon: **“she, poor as she is, gave all she had to live on”** (Luke 21.4)

What is this story about?

[a] Generosity

This story could be used to encourage us to be generous in giving, even to the point of making sacrifices. This is to the delight of church treasurers!
Many churches strongly encourage tithing as being generous to God.

[b] Trust in God

It could also support a ‘do not cling to worldly stuff’ approach. Money is not important, but faith in God is – this widow surely had faith that God would provide despite giving up her last coins.
Some Christians believe that ‘God will provide’ (though often this merely means that others must make sacrifices to satisfy their faith, and often out of duty or guilt).

[c] Systems that encourage poverty

But is Jesus critical of a system that pressurises people to give to the Temple rather than using what little they have for their basic needs, family, etc?

This can happen to older folk who end up in a rest home – guilt about not being able to give what they used to be able to give.

A tithing church could do the same as the Temple did to this widow.

There is a proposed Youth Transition House being set up on Eye St in Invercargill

How does this reading inform our reaction?

Does this reading call us to be generous?

Does it call us to trust in God for these young people?

Or does it call us to be critical about a system that makes life harder for those with so little?

Maybe it is all three!