

Widows [Greek, *chēros*] in Luke's Gospel

[OF 26 USES OF *CHĒROS* IN THE NEW TESTAMENT, 12 ARE IN LUKE/ACTS; 3 IN MARK; 0 IN MATT/JOHN; NOT IN LXX]

BLUE = ACTUAL WIDOWS IN LUKE

2.36-37	[Anna] was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day.
4.25-26	But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. [i.e., 1 Kings 17.9ff]
7.12k	As he approached the gate of the town, a man who had died was being carried out. He was his mother's only son, and she was a widow; and with her was a large crowd from the town.
18.3-5	In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, 'Grant me justice against my opponent.' For a while he refused; but later he said to himself, 'Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.'
20.28ff	[Some Sadducees] asked him a question, "Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a man's brother dies, leaving a wife but no children, the man shall marry the widow and raise up children for his brother."
20.47	[The scribes] devour widows' houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation."
21.2-3	[Jesus] also saw a poor widow put in two small copper coins. He said, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them;

Key Hebrew Scripture passages on widows

Deut 10.17-18	For YHWH your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who is not partial and takes no bribe, who executes justice for the orphan and the widow, and who loves the strangers, providing them food and clothing.
Deut 24.17	You shall not deprive a resident alien or an orphan of justice; you shall not take a widow's garment in pledge.
Deut 26.12	When you have finished paying all the tithe of your produce in the third year (which is the year of the tithe), giving it to the Levites, the aliens, the orphans, and the widows, so that they may eat their fill within your towns...
Psalms 68.5	Father of orphans and protector of widows is God in his holy habitation. [also, Ps 146.9]
Isaiah 1.17	...learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow.
Jeremiah 7.6	if you do not oppress the alien, the orphan, and the widow, or shed innocent blood in this place, and if you do not go after other gods to your own hurt, then I will dwell with you in this place, in the land that I gave of old to your ancestors forever and ever.
Zechariah 7.9-10	Thus says YHWH of hosts: Render true judgments, show kindness and mercy to one another; do not oppress the widow, the orphan, the alien, or the poor; and do not devise evil in your hearts against one another.