

## SERMON OUTLINE

In Mark 12:38-44 Jesus contrasts 2 ways of living.

- I. The scribes are takers and are driven by a devotion to self.
  - A. They seek adulation (vs. 38-39).
  - B. They seek riches (v. 40a).
  - C. They seek to be seen as pious (v. 40b).
  - D. Their devotion to self will result in greater judgment (v. 40c).
  
- II. The poor widow is a giver and is driven by devotion to God.
  - A. She gives a little money while others give a lot of money (vs. 41-42).
  - B. She actually gives more while others actually give less (v. 43).
  - C. She gives from her poverty while others give from their abundance (v. 44a).
  - D. She gives everything while others give part (v. 44b).

## BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, March 20, 2016

Passage: Mark 12:38-44

Memory Passage: Mark 12:43-44

### DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Mark 12:38-44.** What have you learned about the Scribes through our study of Mark (mentioned 21x in Mark)?
- (b) From what you have learned, is Jesus' warning against them warranted? Explain your answer.
- (c) Explain what each of the actions Jesus mentions in vs. 38-39 reveal about these men and why Jesus condemns them.
- (d) Consider the heart issues revealed in each of these acts and ask the Lord to reveal any of these issues that may be found in your own life. Write down several ways you will endeavor to put to death these tendencies through the power of the gospel.

### DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Mark 12:38-44.** In what ways might the scribes be "devouring widows' houses?"
- (b) Is Jesus against "long prayers?" According to v. 40 what is He protesting and why?
- (c) What is the "greater condemnation" the scribes will receive? Why does Jesus reserve it for these particular people?
- (d) Consider the scribe we met in 12:28-34. How would he have responded to the warning Jesus gives in 12:38-40?

### DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Mark 12:38-44.** "Two small copper coins" refers to two *lepta*, which are the smallest of Hebrew coins, each equaling app. 1/128<sup>th</sup> of a denarius (one day's wage for a laborer). "Penny" refers to a *quadrans*, the smallest coin in Roman currency (equal to ¼ of a Roman *as*) and Mark tells us that 2 *lepta* = 1 *quadrans*. Imagine this woman's poverty: Consider a contemporary application: a laborer today working an 8-hour day for \$10/hour. 1/64 (2 *lepta*) of that pay would be \$1.25, and it would represent "everything she had, all she had to live on."
- (b) According to Jesus, what is the difference between the widow's offering and everyone else's?
- (c) Explain the difference between contributing "out of (one's) abundance" and "out of (one's) poverty."
- (d) Is your contribution to gospel ministry best described as being out of your excess (i.e., you only give after you have taken care of your wants & needs) or out of your poverty (i.e. you give of your firstfruits no matter the circumstance)?

### DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Mark 12:38-44, 2 Cor. 8:1-5, & 9:6-15.** As you read 2 Cor. 8-9, develop & record several principles of giving.
- (b) How do these patterns compare with the kind of giving Jesus commends in Mark 12?
- (c) Spend some time comparing the list of principles you developed from 2 Corinthians 8-9 with your current giving patterns. In what ways should you reevaluate and revise your patterns of giving in light of these Biblical teachings?

### DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Mark 1:16-20, 8:34-38, 10:42-45, & 12:38-44.** Compare and contrast the scribes and the poor widow (12:38-44).
- (b) Compare both the scribes and the widow with Jesus' commands concerning discipleship in chapters 1, 8, & 10.
- (c) Write down all the ways you have opportunity to glorify God through the church: consider your use of financial & time resources, willingness to disciple & be discipled, investment in community, love for the brothers/sisters, care for poor, orphans, & widows, investment in missions, use of your spiritual gifts, participation in ministry, (and there are more!).
- (d) Now evaluate all of these opportunities to exercise your responsibilities and privileges as a disciple of Jesus in light of His calls to discipleship in these 4 passages in Mark. What needs to change?

DATE: March 20, 2016

PASSAGE: Mark 12:38-44

*Self or Sacrifice?*