

The Lord's Economy

Mark 12:38-44

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09/17/23

I. Beware of certain priorities. Mark 12:38-40

During Jesus' time, the scribes started adding man's traditions to the Law and they became known for teaching the letter of the Law while ignoring God's _____ behind the giving of the Law.

1. The scribes **desire to go around in long _____**.
2. The scribes **love _____ in the marketplaces**.
3. The scribes loved **the best seats in the synagogue and at feasts**.
4. The scribes _____ **widows' houses**.
5. The scribes, **for a pretense, make long prayers**.

"Some people must be a long way from God because their _____ are so long." (G. Campbell Morgan)

II. The huge, meager offering. Mark 12:41-42

The Temple Treasury had thirteen brass treasure chests that were called _____ because they were shaped like horns.

- Worship is supposed to be _____ and vertical towards the Lord only, even when we gather together corporately, we should not make a public spectacle of worship or giving.

Jesus saw this widow's gift after He taught about the greed of the scribes who were _____ widows' houses.

III. How Jesus felt about the huge, meager offering. Mark 12:43-44

When the widow offered her two coins into the Temple Treasury's trumpet, they were so thin they would not have made a _____ when they landed on the shekels of the rich.

- With Jesus, two parts of one penny, is equivalent to _____. Because the widow gave from her poverty, she gave all she had, without concern for her future needs, so, Jesus honored her gift.

IV. Practical Application.

As Christians, this world is not our home; we are citizens of heaven and _____ of Christ as we live in this world.

- Worship is telling the Lord what He is worth to us. How we respond in worship and giving of our time, talent, and treasures reveal what we _____ believe about the Lord and His kingdom.

Small Group Discussion

Looking back at your notes from this week's sermon, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

1. Read **Mark 12:38-40**. Discuss what a scribe was. Discuss the five points to the warning Jesus gave about the scribes. *How can we guard against having the same priorities the scribes demonstrated?*
2. Read **Mark 12:41-42**. Warren Wiersbe asked, "What does the story of the poverty-stricken widow say to you about the way you treat the money God has entrusted to you?"
Matthew 6:19-21, Matthew 6:1-2, Philippians 4:19, Luke 16:13
3. *Is giving to the Lord part of worship? Why should our worship cost us something? What does our worship communicate about our trust and relationship with the Lord?*
Deuteronomy 6:4-5, 2 Samuel 24:24-25, Romans 12:1-2, Hebrews 11:1-6, Malachi 3:8-10, 2 Corinthians 8-9, 1 Timothy 6:18-19
4. Discuss our dual citizenship and why our concern should be the Lord's will and His eternal purposes.
Ephesians 3:8-9, Philippians 3:20, Luke 22:29-30, 1 Peter 1:4
5. Discuss the Practical Applications of the sermon.