

The Gospel According to Mark

Giving Much Does Not Require Having Much

Mark 12:38-44



10/2/2022 PM

Introduction:

God does not want your money, He wants your heart.

I. THE HYPOCRISY OF THE SCRIBES CONDEMNED (vs. 38-40)

A. Their Gross Display (vs. 38-40b)

“In His teaching He was saying: ‘Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes and like respectful greetings in the market places and chief seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets...and for appearance’s sake offer long prayers”

Luke 14:7-10; Psalm 49:16-17; Matthew 6:1-6

warnings against: ❶ a desire for prominence
❷ a desire for deference
❸ making a traffic of religion

B. Their Greedy Depravity (vs. 40a)

“who devour widows’ houses”

C. Their Greater Damnation (vs. 40c)

“these will receive greater condemnation.”

James 3:1; Matthew 11:20-24
Matthew 23

II. THE HUMILITY OF THE WIDOW COMMENDED (vs. 41-44)

A. The Poor Examples Before Her (vs. 41)

“And He sat down opposite the treasury, and began observing how the people were putting money into the treasury; and many rich people were putting in large sums.”

1) He sees the ones who give.

2) He sees why they give.

3) He sees how much they don't give.

II Corinthians 8:12; I Corinthians 16:2; II Samuel 24:24

B. The Good Example She Gave Us (vs. 42)

"A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which amount to a cent."

C. The Lessons Jesus Applied from Her Example (vs. 43-44)

"Calling His disciples to Him, He said to them, 'Truly I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all the contributors to the treasury; for they all put in out of their surplus, but she, out of her poverty, put in all she owned, all she had to live on.' "

"Real giving has a certain recklessness in it. The woman might have kept one coin. It would not have been much but it would have been something, yet she gave everything she had. There is a great symbolic truth here. It is our tragedy that there is some part of ourselves which we do not give to Christ. Somehow there is nearly always something we hold back. We rarely make the final sacrifice and the final surrender." – William Barclay

Conclusion: God does not want your money, He wants your heart.

- 1) He looks at your focus.
- 2) He looks at your faith.
- 3) He looks at your faithfulness.

"I do not believe one can settle how much we ought to give. I am afraid the only safe rule is to give more than we can spare. In other words, if our expenditure on comforts, luxuries, amusements, etc. is up to the standard common among those with the same income as our own, we are probably giving away too little. If our charities do not at all pinch or hamper us, I should say they are too small. There ought to be things we should like to do and cannot do because our charitable expenditures excludes them." – C.S. Lewis

If I Were Only Rich - Polly C. Strong
(former BMM missionary to Belgian Congo/Zaire)

"If I were only rich," I said,
"I'd see that all the poor were fed,
And help each missionary on their way
And sent them gifts - most every day -
If I were only rich!

"If I were rich, I'd buy a car
And drive to places near and far
Investing money in equipment and tools
For building churches, and missions, and schools,
And then I'd find a willing crew
To do the work - and pay them too!
If I were only rich!

"If I were rich," I'd often sigh,
"I'd hire a million by my side
To go to some far distant place
And tell the folks of saving grace.
I'd pay their passage and equipment too
And support them all the whole year through.
If I were only rich!

"If I were rich," I'd often state,
"I'd do some noble thing - or great -
To help the cause of Christ abroad,
To reach wherever man has trod.
And, oh, what joy to me 'twould bring.
And I would give just anything!
If I were only rich!

So - God increased my treasured store,
But still I said, "I am so poor."
The things I once considered "taste"
Are fast becoming commonplace.
The more I have - the more I need.
Missions called, and still I'd plead,
"If I were only rich!"