

How does *Jeremiah 7:4-6* parallel *Mark 12:38-44*?

**Reflection Questions:** Where in my life do I act like a scribe? Why do I do this? What would Jesus say about my prayer life? Do I realize that God sees me at all times? What does my giving say about me? Is my giving sacrificial or out of my surplus? How does my giving show that I love God with all I am?

How can we pray for one another and our church this week?

#### Quotes to Ponder

*Holiness is the habit of being of one mind with God, according as we find His mind described in Scripture. It is the habit of agreeing in God's judgment, hating what He hates, loving what He loves, and measuring everything in this world by the standard of His Word.*

J.C. Ryle

*When we feel as if God is nowhere, He is watching over us with an eternal consciousness, above and beyond our every hope and fear.*

George MacDonald

*They gave to God what they could spare. The widow had nothing to spare, but what she had, she gave.*

R.C. Sproul

*God does not want our money. He wants us. Yet, we cannot give ourselves to Him apart from our money.*

R. Kent Hughes

*We can't live or give sacrificially until we see that it means giving ourselves, just as Jesus gives Himself to us.*

Anne Taylor



When Less is More

*Sermon*  
*Notes*

April 28, 2024

1. Warning to Oppressors (38-40)

2. Widow's Offering (41-44)

1. What in the text/sermon impacted you? Encouraged you? Convicted you? Challenged you? Confused you? Comforted you?

2. Read the following accounts, noting what you learn from each. Are there any contradictions? If so, how do you resolve them?

*Matthew 23:1-12* —

*Mark 12:33-44* —

*Luke 20:45-21:4* —

3. What was Jesus' warning about the scribes in *Mark 12:38-40*?

4. Read *Matthew 23:1-33*. What does Jesus say about the religious leaders in this passage?

5. What motivated the scribes and religious leaders in their activities (cf. *Matthew 6:5-6*)?

6. What does it mean that the scribes *devour widows' houses* (*Mark 12:40*)?

7. Why will the scribes *receive greater condemnation* (*Mark 12:40*)?

8. What do the following verses teach about *greater condemnation*?  
*Luke 12:48* — *James 3:1* —

*Hebrews 13:17* —

9. What is the connection between *Mark 12:38-40* and *Mark 12:41-44* (cf. *James 1:27*)?

What is Jesus teaching us?

10. In what ways does the widow stand in contrast with the scribes (*Mark 12:38-44*)?

11. How is it possible that the widow gave *more than all the contributors to the treasury* (*Mark 12:43*)?

12. Why does Jesus stress the fact that the widow gave *out of her poverty, put in all she owned, all she had to live on* (*Mark 12:44*)?

13. How does this widow live out the following verses?  
*Mark 8:34-35* —

*Mark 10:45* —

14. Does *Mark 12:41-44* teach that we all should give away everything we have to live on? Explain.

15. What do these verses teach about giving?  
*2 Samuel 24:24* — *2 Corinthians 8:1-5* —

*Matthew 6:1-4* —

*2 Corinthians 9:7* —