

**Series "The God Who Serves"
"True Spirituality"
Mark 12:38-44
Study-51**

Any person's thinking that says, "Religion is relative, and any sincere faith and practice will do!" That person needs to read Matthew 23; Mark 12:38-40

The Setting is "The Passion Week". It is the last week of Jesus' earthly ministry. "The Week That Changed The World"

Rebuking The Scribes – Matthew 23:6-7,14; Mark 12:38-40; Luke 20:45-47

The Widow's Giving – Mark 12:41-44; Luke 21:1-4

The Thought Of Our Passage: Disciples Of Jesus Must Be On Guard Against Spiritual Hypocrisy; What Man Congratulates, God Often Condemns.

1. Verses 38-40 – Spiritual Pretenders

2. Verses 41-44 – Spiritual Casualties

1. Verses 38-40 – Spiritual Pretenders:

Mark 12:38

"And in His teaching He was saying" – The word "teaching" K.J.V. says "Doctrine", which is simply teaching; systematic teaching.

Mark 12:37

Luke 20:45

"Beware of the scribes" – When you have to beware of your protectors, you're in trouble. (Matthew 23)

Jesus is saying, "Protect yourself against your protectors!"

Jesus Is Warning against Conduct and Practices but also against The Persons who are given to such conduct and practices.

What Characterizes Their False Virtue? It's merely external.

"scribes" – Also known as Lawyers, Experts of the Law. They were Pharisees. (Scribes laid out the demands and the Pharisees enforced them.)

6 Warnings Against Hypocrisy In Conduct and Practice:

1. Spiritual Hypocrisy In Their Apparel: "who like to walk around in long robes,"

Matthew 23:5 – "and lengthen the tassels of their garments."

Lesson: They confused cloths for character and content.

2. Spiritual Hypocrisy In Wanting The Respect/Recognition Of Man: "and like respectful greetings in the market places," Luke 20:46 – "love respectful greetings in the market places,"

Matthew 23:8-10

Rabbi – "O great one, O knowledgeable one, O excellent one, O exalted teacher."

Let us never forget that the term "Minister" means "Servant".

Satan Wanted Worship; Fallen Human Nature tendency is to receive human honor.

John 5:44

Lesson: False teachers are never humble. They always need to be elevated: They confused respect and honor for a mark of greatness.

Mark 12:39

3. Spiritual Hypocrisy In Wanting Chief Seats: "and chief seats in the synagogues,"

Lesson: They wanted the focus and the attention to be upon them: We should want the attention to go to the Lord, not self.

4. Spiritual Hypocrisy In Loving Pre-eminence: "and places of honor at banquets," Matt 23:6 – "And they love the place of honor at banquets,"

To the Scribes, success meant recognition & praise by men.

Where a man sits bears no relationship to what a man is.

Luke 22:24

Lesson: There should be no greater aspiration than being that of a servant of God: Greatness is serving others, not being served by others.

Mark 12:40

5. Spiritual Hypocrisy In Loving Money: "who devour widows' houses," – "devour": "to plunder them, literally to eat them up"

Lesson: The depraved minded and deprived of the truth, see money in ministry: 1 Timothy 6:5

6. Spiritual Hypocrisy In Using Religion As A Front: "and for appearance's sake offer long prayers;" – "a show, an outward showing, to pretend, under color" Matt 23:14

Lesson: God's Judgment Will Fall Upon Religious Impostors: "these will receive greater condemnation." – Literally "abundant judgment, more judgment."

2. Verses 41-44 – Spiritual Casualties:

Mark 12:41

"And He sat down opposite the treasury," – compound word – "treasure" and "guard"; literally "a safe place for gifts."

"observing" – Greek word in English "Theater"; "to look with interest, to look with perception, thoughtful observation."

Matthew 6:1-4

Mark 12:42

Mark 12:40 – "who devour widows' houses,"

"copper coins" – Mites, which meant – "thin and small coin"; They were worth about 1/4 or 1/5 of a cent.

Mark 12:43

1 Corinthians 13:3

2 Cor. 9:7

Mark 12:44

Lesson – God’s Method of Computing Values Is Different From Man’s: “but she, out of her poverty, put in all she owned, all she had to live on.” (Not the amount given but the amount left!)

True Givers are given a promise: 2 Cor 8:15

2 Cor 9:6-7

Application:

1. Spiritual Hypocrisy Is Hated By God, Because God Is Opposed To The Proud But Gives Grace To The Humble.
2. God Does Not Want Our Money. He Wants Us. Yet We Cannot Give Ourselves To Him Apart From Our Money.
3. It Is True That Money Speaks; It Tells Us Where Our Hearts Are.