A BETTER WORD

THE GOSPEL OF MARK

A Study Through the Life of King Jesus | with Pastor Nick Gatzke

Revealing the State of the Heart

◆ *Mark 12:35–44*

THE BIG IDEA

What you believe about Jesus, about yourself, and about your resources all reveal what you truly love.

SERMON SUMMARY

Teaching in the temple for the last time, Jesus asked how the Christ could be both David's son and David's Lord, quoting Psalm 110:1 to point to his own divine identity, not merely human descent. What you believe about Jesus is inseparable from your love for God; you cannot claim to love God while dismissing his Son.

Jesus then warned against the self-righteous heart of the scribes, who loved long robes, public greetings, and places of honor while "devouring widows' houses" behind long, showy prayers. It was religion aimed at being seen rather than at God. In contrast, Jesus highlighted a poor widow giving two small coins, "everything she had to live on," as worth more in God's eyes than the large sums given by the wealthy, because her gift flowed from love rather than showy obligation. Money reveals the heart. It isn't the amount but the posture and sacrifice behind it that matters to God.

DIGGING DEEPER

OBSERVATION

1. Jesus asked how the scribes could say the Christ is only David's son when David himself, by the Spirit, calls him "Lord" (Psalm 110:1). What is Jesus claiming about his own identity by raising this question?

INTERPRETATION

2. Jesus warned about scribes who loved long robes, public greetings, and places of honor while devouring widows' houses under a pretense of long prayers (vv.38–40). What does this contrast between appearance and motive reveal about the nature of self-righteousness?

3. Jesus says the poor widow "put in more than all those who are contributing" even though her two coins were worth almost nothing materially. What does this reveal about how God measures giving compared to how people typically measure it?

THEOLOGICAL CONNECTION

4. What you believe about Jesus reveals something about your love for God. Why is it impossible, according to this passage, to genuinely love God while dismissing or minimizing who Jesus is?

5. Self-righteousness is easy to spot in someone else but harder to see in yourself. Where might you be more like the scribes than the widow right now?

LIVING IT OUT

HEART CHECK

Belief, self-perception, and money aren't separate compartments of life. They're all windows into the same heart. If someone watched your giving, what would it reveal about whether your love for God is genuine or performed?

ACTION STEPS

— Identify one place where you've been giving, money, service, or attention, more for how it looks than out of love for God.

— Make one specific gift or act of service that no one else will see or know about.

"SO WHAT?" CHALLENGE

> ***God isn't counting your coins. He's weighing your love. Give something today that only he will ever see.***

REFLECTION & PRAYER

KEY VERSE — TO MEMORIZE

> *"Truly, I say to you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the offering box."*
>
> **— Mark 12:43**

PRAYER PROMPT

Ask God to reveal any self-righteousness hiding beneath your religious activity, and thank him that true love for him is possible only because Jesus, David's Lord and Son, gave everything for you first.

YOUR PRAYER