

WHILE HE TAUGHT IN THE TEMPLE

MARK 12:35-44

Text: Mark 12:35

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³⁵ And Jesus answered and said, while he taught in the temple, How say the scribes that Christ is the Son of David?

Introduction:

In our text the Lord is sitting in the temple teaching the people and preaching the gospel. He told them of God's certain impending judgment upon the Jews.

The Scribes and the Pharisees along with the Sadducees got so mad that they wanted to kill Him on the spot, but feared the people.

As the Lord continued to teach, these groups put their heads together and decided that they would try to trick him into saying something that wasn't right.

The first to come was the Pharisees and the Herodians. Then the Sadducees came. The last to question the Lord was a scribe with a trick question.

In this last part of this chapter the Lord draws from the scenes before Him in the temple and teaches us about Self righteousness, and the Simplicity of true faith.

Notice

1. A WARNING ABOUT SELF RIGHTEOUSNESS (VS. 38-40)

Mark 12:38-40

³⁸ And he said unto them in his doctrine, Beware of the scribes, which love to go in long clothing, and *love* salutations in the marketplaces, ³⁹ And the chief seats in the synagogues, and the uppermost rooms at feasts: ⁴⁰ Which devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayers: these shall receive greater damnation.

Nothing in the entire world is more obnoxious and repugnant to God than self-righteousness, hypocrisy, and the outward show of religion.

The word "Beware" was a word seldom used by our Lord. When he did use it, he used it only to give warnings of utmost importance.

Matthew 7:15

¹⁵ Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.

Matthew 10:16-17

¹⁶ Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves. ¹⁷ But beware of men: for they will deliver you up to the councils, and they will scourge you in their synagogues;

Matthew 16:6-12

⁶ Then Jesus said unto them, Take heed and beware of the leaven

of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees. ⁷ And they reasoned among themselves, saying, *It is* because we have taken no bread. ⁸ *Which* when Jesus perceived, he said unto them, O ye of little faith, why reason ye among yourselves, because ye have brought no bread? ⁹ Do ye not yet understand, neither remember the five loaves of the five thousand, and how many baskets ye took up? ¹⁰ Neither the seven loaves of the four thousand, and how many baskets ye took up? ¹¹ How is it that ye do not understand that I spake *it* not to you concerning bread, that ye should beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees? ¹² Then understood they how that he bade *them* not beware of the leaven of bread, but of the doctrine of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees.

Luke 12:1

¹ In the mean time, when there were gathered together an innumerable multitude of people, insomuch that they trode one upon another, he began to say unto his disciples first of all, Beware ye of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy.

Luke 12:15

¹⁵ And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.

Back in our text notice again what the Lord gives warning about.

Mark 12:38-40

³⁸ And he said unto them in his doctrine, Beware of the scribes, which love to go in long clothing, and *love* salutations in the marketplaces, ³⁹ And the chief seats in the synagogues, and the uppermost rooms at feasts: ⁴⁰ Which devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayers: these shall receive greater damnation.

- Religious Attire

- Titles and Salutations
- Chief seats (Honor from men)
- Long prayers
- Pretense

Why should we beware of such men?

A. They Devour Widows Houses

Everything they do is in some way or another motivated and governed by the love of honor and the love of money.

B. They Will Receive Greater Damnation

2. AN EXAMPLE OF TRUE GODLINESS (VS. 41-44)

Mark 12:41-44

⁴¹ And Jesus sat over against the treasury, and beheld how the people cast money into the treasury: and many that were rich cast in much. ⁴² And there came a certain poor widow, and she threw in two mites, which make a farthing. ⁴³ And he called *unto him* his disciples, and saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That this poor widow hath cast more in, than all they which have cast into the treasury: ⁴⁴ For all *they* did cast in of their abundance; but she of her want did cast in all that she had, *even* all her living.

There are few events in the earthly life of Christ more commonly overlooked than this, and few of his sayings which are less discussed than the one now before us. Our Lord saw "many that were rich cast in much".

Without question, those who have more should give more.

That is seldom the case; but it should be.

Often, the wealthiest people really give the least, and when they do give a little something, they have lots of strings attached.

Then the Lord draws our attention to "a certain poor widow."

A. This Widows Gift in Itself was Small in the Eyes of Men, But was Highly Valued By the Lord.

All that was given by the wealthy was given out of their abundance. It was just the overflow, the excess, what they had left over after buying all they wanted, throwing away all they wanted, and saving all they wanted.

- They gave a portion, but only a portion of what they had. She gave all!

- They gave out of their wealth. She gave out of her poverty!
- They gave and had much remaining. She gave everything she had. - All her daily sustenance!

"She did cast in all that she had, even all her living; her whole substance, all that she had in the world; what was to have bought her food, for that day. She left herself nothing, but gave away all, and trusted to providence for immediate supply."

- They gave out of a sense of duty; she gave because she wanted to give.
- They gave to be seen of men; she gave because she loved the Lord.
- They gave to glory to themselves; she gave to the glory of God.
- They gave what they did not need; she gave what she desperately needed.
- They gave their spare change; she gave everything.

B. Lesson To Be Learned

- We should be willing to give our all, and all.

- We should give ourselves to Christ.
- We should give purposefully – to the glory of God, as unto the Lord
- We should give generously
- We should give regularly – on the first day of the week