



## Mark 12

**“Giving Much Doesn’t Require Having Much”**

(Mark 12:35-44)

Reading and Study Guide for the week of July 2-9, 2023

**Memory Verse for the Gospel of Mark:** *Jesus called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: “If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.” (Mark 8:34)*

**This week, read Mark 12.** On Sunday, July 9: Pastor John will be preaching on the theme, *“Giving Much Doesn’t Require Having Much.”* (Mark 12:35-44). The rich and distinguished people in Jesus’ day believed that their worldly affluence provided them with divine acceptance. When Jesus praised a poor widow’s offering, He revealed that the heart of giving is more important than the amount of giving.

**Some questions to answer and think about this week with your family or Community Group:**

### Part 1: v. 35-40

1. If you wanted to be noticed for being an especially good worker at your job, how would you go about doing it?
2. Why did Jesus condemn the teachers of the law? (12:38-39)
3. What did the teachers of the law betray about themselves through their actions? (12:38-39)
4. What did Jesus say would happen to the teachers of the law? (12:40)
5. What do Christians do that is like the actions of the teachers of the law described in this passage (such as walking around in flowing robes, being greeted in the marketplace, having the most important seats at the synagogues and places of honor at banquets)?
6. What can we do to avoid being showy about our faith?
7. What step can you take this week to pray, go to church, and do other spiritual devotions only out of a desire to please God?

### Life Application Bible Notes

**12:35-37** Jesus quoted Psalm 110:1 to show that David considered the Messiah to be his Lord, not just his descendant. The religious leaders did not understand that the Messiah would be far more than a human descendant of David; he would be God himself in human form.

**12:38-40** Jesus again exposed the religious leaders' impure motives. The teachers received no pay, so they depended on the hospitality extended by devout Jews. Some of them used this custom to exploit people, cheating the poor out of everything they had and taking advantage of the rich. Through their pious actions they hoped to gain status, recognition, and respect.

**12:38-40** Jesus warned against trying to make a good impression. These teachers of religious law were religious hypocrites who had no love for God. True followers of Christ are not distinguished by showy spirituality. Reading the Bible, praying in public, or following church rituals can be phony if the motive for doing them is to be noticed or honored. Let your actions be consistent with your beliefs. Live for Christ, even when no one is looking.

**Part 2: v. 41-44**

1. What does it mean to be poor? \
2. What did the "rich people" do at the temple treasury? ([12:41](#))
3. What do the "rich people's" actions tell us about their motivation for giving? ([12:41](#))
4. What did the "poor widow" give to the treasury? ([12:42](#))
5. Why did Jesus call His disciples when He saw the widow put in her offering? ([12:43](#))
6. How did Jesus compare the actions of the wealthy people to the actions of the poor woman? ([12:43-44](#))
7. Why was the widow's gift so significant in Jesus' eyes? ([12:44](#))
8. How does God evaluate a person's giving?
9. What place does a person's motivation and attitude have in their giving to the Lord, according to Jesus' teaching in this passage?
10. In what ways can you give to God?

**Life Application Bible Notes**

**12:41** There were several boxes in the Temple where money could be placed. Some were for collecting the Temple tax from Jewish males; the others were for freewill offerings. This particular collection box was probably in the Court of the Women.

**12:41-44** This widow gave all she had to live on, in contrast to the way most people handle their money. When we consider giving a certain percentage of our income a great accomplishment, we resemble those who gave "a tiny part of their surplus." Here, Jesus was admiring generous and sacrificial giving. As believers, we should consider increasing our giving—whether of money, time, or talents—to a point beyond convenience or calculation.

Mark Study Guide questions and notes are from

