

Mark 12:38-44 The Great Contrast Between the Scribes and the Widow

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by Eric Douma

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Gospel of Grace Fellowship

Contrast Between the Widow and the Scribes

Scribes (12:38-40) Wealthy Took all Consumed with status Faithless	Widow (12:41-44) Poor Gave all No status Faith
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Jesus' Warning About the Scribes

Mark 12:38-40 In His teaching He was saying: "Beware of the scribes who like to walk around in long robes, and like respectful greetings in the market places, and chief seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets, who devour widows' houses, and for appearance's sake offer long prayers; these will receive greater condemnation."

Mark 10:43-45 "But it is not this way among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your **servant**; and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be **slave of all**. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

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Jesus Commends the Widow

Mark 12:41-44 And He sat down opposite the treasury, and began observing how the people were putting money into the treasury; and many rich people were putting in large sums. A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which amount to a cent. Calling His disciples to Him, He said to them, **Truly I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all the contributors to the treasury; for they all put in out of their surplus, but she, out of her poverty, put in all she owned, all she had to live on.**

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Applications

1. Being disciples of Christ involves sacrifice for the sake of His name.
2. Longing for status among men is a fool's errand.
3. Living to glorify God eventually leads to greater reward.

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1. Being Disciples Involves Sacrifice

Mark 10:45 For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, **but to serve**, and to give His life a ransom for many.

2 Corinthians 8:9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake **He became poor**, so that you through His poverty might become rich.

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1. Being Disciples Involves Sacrifice

Matthew 10:24-27 A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a slave above his master. It is enough for the disciple that he become like his teacher, and the slave like his master. If they have called the head of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign the members of his household! Therefore do not fear themō

1 Timothy 6:17-18 Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy. Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share,

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2. Longing for Status Is Foolish

Matthew 6:5 When you pray, you are not to be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on the street corners so that they may be seen by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full.

John 12:42-43 Nevertheless many even of the rulers believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they were not confessing Him, for fear that they would be put out of the synagogue; for they loved the approval of men rather than the approval of God.

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3. Living to Glorify God Pays in the End

Proverbs 22:4 The reward of humility and the fear of the LORD are riches, honor and life.

Luke 6:22-23 Blessed are you when men hate you, and ostracize you, and insult you, and scorn your name as evil, for the sake of the Son of Man. Be glad in that day and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven. For in the same way their fathers used to treat the prophets.

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3. Living to Glorify God Pays in the End

Colossians 3:23-24 Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men, knowing that from the Lord **you will receive the reward of the inheritance**. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve.

Hebrews 11:8-10 By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed by going out to a place which he was to receive for an inheritance; and he went out, **not knowing where he was going**. By faith he lived as an alien in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, fellow heirs of the same promise; **for he was looking for the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God**.

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3. Living to Glorify God Pays in the End

Revelation 21:2-4 And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, **Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away.**+

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