



JUST JESUS: A Journey Through Mark PART 48 - 12:38-44

Watch Out for Performative Faith

READ: Mark 12:38–40 AND Matthew 6:1–5

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- 1) What specific behaviors does Jesus warn about in the scribes, and what do those behaviors reveal about their hearts?
- 2) Why do you think public recognition and spiritual status can become so dangerous in leadership?
- 3) In Matthew 6, Jesus talks about practicing righteousness to be seen. How does that connect to what He is exposing in Mark 12?
- 4) Pastor G said, “When leadership becomes about image, status, and applause, something has gone deeply wrong.” What are some modern examples of this, and how do we guard against it in our own lives?

When Religion Exploits the Vulnerable

READ: Mark 12:40 AND Isaiah 1:17

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- 1) What does Jesus mean when He says the scribes “devour widows’ houses,” and why is that so serious?
- 2) Why does Scripture place such a strong emphasis on caring for widows, orphans, and the vulnerable?
- 3) How can spiritual authority be misused today in ways that harm or exploit people?
- 4) Pastor G said, “Their faith wasn’t about devotion. It was about recognition.” How can we tell the difference between genuine faith and performative religion?

God Sees What Others Miss

READ: Mark 12:41–42 AND 1 Samuel 16:7

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- 1) What stands out to you about how Jesus observes people giving at the temple?
- 2) Why do you think the wealthy givers attracted attention, while the widow was almost invisible?
- 3) According to 1 Samuel 16:7, how does God evaluate people differently than we do?
- 4) Pastor G said, “She is not invisible to Jesus.” How does that truth encourage you in your own walk with God?

The Devotion That Gives Everything

READ: Mark 12:43–44 AND Deuteronomy 6:4–5

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- 1) Why does Jesus say the widow gave “more” than everyone else, even though her gift was so small?
- 2) What is the difference between giving out of surplus and giving out of sacrifice?
- 3) How does this widow demonstrate what it means to love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength?
- 4) Pastor G said, “Don’t perform religion. Surrender your life.” What would it look like for you personally to live that out this week?