



Scribes and Widow (T/F)

Sept 4

INTRODUCTION: Mk 11–12 is all about the authority of Jesus as the Messiah, the Son of God. He was asked in Mk 11:28, ‘by what authority...’ Jesus answered that in v.37. Now at the close of His public ministry He pronounces clear judgement as He contrasts being true and false.

REVIEW: [Mark](#) (be cautious with other videos)

KEY POINT: hypocrisy, sincerity, integrity, giving

A.M. SERMON RECAP (Mk 12:35–37, Whose Son is Christ?)

- Why did Jesus have authority (c.f. 11:28)?
- According to Ps 110, who was Jesus?
- Why did this make Jesus so attractive?

P.M. SERMON RECAP (Gen 2:15, Labour)

- Is ‘work’ a four letter word?
- How does work/labour reflect God’s character and obey His commands? Is work limited to that which is paid?
- How are workaholism and laziness both sins? What helps do we have to avoid them?

READ: Mark 12:28–34

QUESTIONS:

Scribes

1. *The Scribes are contrasted with Jesus before and the widow afterwards. As a generalization (scribes like v. 34 excepted) Jesus condemns the Scribes’ for their hypocrisy.*
2. **What is hypocrisy² vs. integrity, falseness vs. being genuine/true? Can you think of an example?**

¹ Scribes were Levites charged with teaching the people the law and judging cases.

² Litt. Two faced (i.e. a mask in the theatre).

³ Scribes generally lived off of the giving’s of the people. Theoretically they could have been poor. Many sought to care for the Scribes through extra gifts and hospitality. This was something open to great carnal temptation.

3. *Jesus draws attention to four ways the Scribes were hypocrites such that we do the opposite:*

Condemnations:	What would this have looked like?	Modern Parallels in the Church?
<i>Obsession with Appearance</i>		
<i>Passion for Status</i>		
<i>Ruthless Greed⁴</i>		
<i>False Spirituality</i>		

4. **Why will hypocrites be judged so severely?**
5. *Ghandi said, ‘I like your Christ, I don’t like your Christians. Your Christians are so unlike your Christ.’ Discuss how hypocrisy negatively impacts Christian witness. May we need to repent of anything?*

Widow (giving was a command and norm in the Old Testament)

6. *Housed in the Court of the Women beside the Treasury were wooden chests with funnel tops. What would this have looked like when someone gave? What would this have sounded like? (See above) How could this have lent to pride?*
7. *Everyone could tell she was poor by her dress and no impressive sound!*
8. *In the business world, much is better. In the Kingdom, while giving matters, the heart is vital. They contributed out of their plenty, she gave out of her want.⁴ Describe her motive for giving?⁵*
9. *Tithes and offerings remain a basic spiritual discipline and part of following Jesus. If Jesus is Lord, how must our wallet be converted (Mt 6:24)?*
10. *Jesus has the final word, not his various questioners!*

NEXT WEEK: Sept 11- Time Unknown, Mk 13:28–36

⁴ *Unlike the wealthy who gave from their plenty (say income=\$200K-tithe of \$20K, gross=\$180K!), she gave just two small copper coins (lepta), which made a Roman quadrans, which was 1/64 of a denarii (a labourer’s daily wage. If today \$15/8hrs=120/64=\$1.88).*

⁵ Do you think she would have squeezed herself into the box if she could have?