

Noticed Generosity

4

Mark 12:38-44

1. What things in this world does God notice? Do you think God assesses what He notices?

2. Read Mark 12:38-44.

3. In biblical times, what was the job of a ‘teacher of the law’ or ‘scribe’? Read the following:

Scribes were experts in the study of the law of Moses (Torah)... The function of the scribes was threefold. 1. They preserved the law... professional students of the law and defenders... They transmitted unwritten legal decisions which had come into existence in their efforts to apply the Mosaic law to daily life... 2. They gathered around them many pupils to instruct them in the law... 3. They were referred to as ‘lawyers’ and ‘teachers of the law’ because they were entrusted with the administration of the law as judges in the Sanhedrin.

(C. L. Feinberg, “Scribes,” in New Bible Dictionary)

a) What do you think should bring satisfaction from being a teacher of the law?

b) According to Jesus’ warning in verses 38-39, what were some of the teachers of the law seeking from their job?

4. Consider your ministry or your involvement at church. What things should bring you satisfaction? What does bring you satisfaction?

5. How were the teachers of the law treating widows in verse 40? What did the law require regarding widows? (see Ex 22:22; Dt 10:18).

6. What words are used to describe the actions of individuals of giving offerings to the temple treasury in verse and what do we learn about the motives of the givers?

7. Could the temple maintenance crew do more with the widows' offering than with the rich persons offering?

8. How might Jesus' teaching Matthew 6:1-4 apply to both the actions of the teachers of the law (Mk 12:38-40) and the givers (41-42)?

9. What was Jesus assessing when he said the widow gave more than the others, because it certainly wasn't monetary value (43-44)?

10. How might the example of the poor widow be an example for how you give? Discuss.

11. What does the giving of the widow point to about Jesus' ministry to us?

12. What new insight have you gained or action might you try from this study?

13. Spend a few minutes in quiet reflection and prayer individually. Consider your giving, of time, money other resources for Gods kingdom and your motivation for this and spend some time praying about it.

14. Pray for each other.