

WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM? | Christ Searches the Heart
Mark 12:38-44
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Revelation 2:23b And all the churches will know that I am he who searches mind and heart, and I will give to each of you according to your works.

I. He sees the prideful heart (Mark 12:38–44) (Luke 20:45–47)

A. Pride revealed (vv. 38-40b)

1. They were vain (vv. 38-39).
2. They were greedy (v. 40a).
3. They were pretentious (v. 40b).

Matthew 6:5–8 “And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. 6 But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. 7 “And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. 8 Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

B. Pride's reward (v. 40c)

James 3:1 Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness.

II. He sees the humble heart (Mark 12:41-44) (Luke 21:1-4)

A. Humility revealed (vv. 41-44)

1. She was a poor widow (v. 42).

Randy Alcorn “Giving is a joyful surrender to a greater person and a greater agenda. It dethrones me and exalts Him.”

2. She was exalted as an example to imitate (vv. 43-44).

> She gave more than the rest (v. 40b).

“The test of liberality is not what is given, but what is left.” William Kelly.

> She gave out of her poverty (v. 44a).

- The example of the Macedonians (2 Cor. 8:2)

> She gave everything she had (v. 44b).

- The widow’s simple inconspicuous act was an outrageous display of her faithful devotion to God.

B. Humility rewarded

1. God rewards the secret gift (Matt. 6:1-4).

Matt. 6:1-4 “Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven. 2 “Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. 3 But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, 4 so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

2. God exalts the humble (Matt. 23:12; 1 Pet. 5:6; Mk. 14:3-10).

Matt. 23:12 Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.

3. Christ is displayed through our sacrifices (2 Cor. 9:12-15).

- Our greatest reward is that Jesus will be glorified in and through our life.

2 Corinthians 9:12–15 For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God. 13 By their approval of this service, they will glorify God because of your submission that comes from your confession of the gospel of Christ, and the generosity of your contribution for them and for all others, 14 while they long for you and pray for you, because of the surpassing grace of God upon you. 15 Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!

> Jesus saw the widow's sacrifice.

> The Father saw the Son's sacrifice.

> God calls us to remember our savior's sacrifice.