



SERMON REFLECTION GUIDE

Luke, Part 60: The Scribes and the Widow - Luke 20:45-21:4 - February 15, 2026

SERMON OUTLINE

Intro - “[Prophets 'n Watches](#)” & “[Preachers 'n Sneakers](#)” & “[Roy's Report](#)” & [Mike Winger](#) - exposing the excesses, abuses and cover-ups within modern church leadership.

Many leaders seek their own glory & good > God's glory and the good of God's people.

Jesus is also constantly **exposing** the problems within the Jewish religious leadership. Here at the end of [Luke 20](#), he targets the “scribes”, those who translated & interpreted & taught the Old Testament within the synagogues and Temple. At the Passover, Jesus exposes them publicly to their face.

The Scribes are Guilty of Seeking:

1. Appearance

- Long Robes, outward appearance > a heart for God and God's people

2. Recognition

- Greetings, best seats, places of honor - living for a pat on the back
 - Not just a “them” problem, this kind of narcissism can exist in small churches (like ours!)
- Long prayers
 - See Jesus's prescription in the Sermon on the Mount: [Matthew 6:5-13](#)
 - Social Media Piety Signaling = gross and self-serving

3. Domination

- Devouring widows' houses
- A righteous anger should be felt towards those who would prey on the weakest in our culture in the name of God.

We all need to be who we are in Jesus Christ, no more and no less. Let us offer to God and to others only what is genuinely and sincerely true.

As an example of the opposite of the scribes - Jesus notices a [poor widow](#) in [Luke 21:1-4](#)

The offering receptacles at the Temple at the Passover would have been made of metal, and the all the currency was coins. Rich people would make a loud spectacle of their “generosity”, splashing many clanging coins into the offering boxes.

The widow, on the other hand, gives 2 *leptons* - coins worth less than modern US penny.

Notable: she has 2 coins, even giving one would have been remarkably generous, but she gives everything she has.

Giving so abundantly, the widow had to believe that God was glorious, generous, and gracious.

This story teaches us several things about our own financial giving to the kingdom of God:

1. God cares more about the affection of our heart than the amount of our tithe.

- The quality of our hearts > the quantity of our giving.

2. God is pleased when our giving actually costs us.

- Americans who give a lot, usually leave plenty of money to do everything they want to do.

3. God does big things with small gifts.

- This widow's giving is still being talked about 2000 years later, making a difference!

4. God will square all accounts on the last day.

- The gospel itself shows Jesus giving all of himself as well.
- God doesn't want our money, he wants our hearts - but we cannot separate our hearts from our money!



SERMON REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Is it important to have people watching out to expose corrupt leaders in the Christian church at large?
2. How do many leaders respond when their excesses and manipulation (or worse!) is exposed publicly? Why?
3. What did Jesus say the Scribes were guilty of? How do we see this same guilt in our current religious culture?
4. Have you ever been tempted to (or guilty of) act in a self-serving manner when serving the Lord or the church in a specific way? What is the heart behind desiring this kind of recognition?
5. What is most notable to you about the widow and the fact that Jesus sees her generous offering?
6. When you give financially to the kingdom of God, what is your strongest motivation for doing so?
7. What does God care most about when it comes to our financial giving?