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THE HIDDEN MAN OF THE HEART (Mk. 12:38-44)

April 6, 2025

TEXT—Mk. 12:38-44

MAIN IDEA—Mere outward religious practices can never be enough to save us from sin and make us right with God. God wants a real faith that starts with a genuine transformation from the inside out.

JESUS WARNS US ABOUT HYPOCRISY (Mk. 12:38-40)—The scribes were interpreters of the law of Moses who were outwardly religious and cared deeply about their public image before others. Yet they were severely lacking in

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character. Though they publicly professed to be examples of religious piety, Jesus warned against following their example because beneath the surface they were evil and were headed for divine judgment.

Six expressions of hypocrisy by the Scribes:

>V38 They like *to walk around in long robes*.

>V38 They like *respectful greetings in the marketplace*.

>V39 They like *chief seats in the synagogues*.

>V39 They like *places of honor at banquets*.

>V40 They *devour widows' houses*.

>V40 *For appearance sake offer long prayers*
(See Lk. 18:9-14).

Mt. 23:13, 15, 23, 27, 29-34

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Warren Wiersbe (1929-2019)—If a person is ‘important’ only because of the uniform he wears, the title he bears, or the office he holds, then his ‘importance’ is artificial. It is character that makes a person valuable, and nobody can give you character: you must develop it yourself as you walk with God.

Mt. 7:21-24

*Integrity matters to Christ, therefore it needs to matter to us as followers of the Lord Jesus Christ [Prov. 10:9; 28:6; 11:3; 20:7; 12:22].

JESUS SEES OUR HEARTS (Mk. 12:41-44)—

While in the temple, in the court of the women (the place where men and women were allowed to come, also the location of the

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temple treasury) Jesus watched how the people gave. His commentary further revealed that He is the Lord who knows and perfectly sees the state of our hearts.

*We generally give in 1 of those 3 categories: 1- Nothing at all. 2-Give the least we can (even if it's large compared to others) 3-Give the best we can as God leads.

2 Cor.9:6-8

1 Sam. 16:1-13

MEMORY VERSE - [1 Sam. 16:7]

Matt. 6:1- 6, 16-18, 33

Gal. 2:20