

Talk Five

Flashy or humble?

Week 5, Mark 12.38-44 Discussion Questions

Choose a selection from the questions below.

Read 12:38-40

1. Why is Jesus here warning people *against* their own religious leaders?
2. What appears to be the motivation of the religious leaders to act in the way they do?
See Matthew 23 for a longer list of 'woes' against the religious leaders.
3. What might Jesus have meant by "they devour widows' houses"? What is the significance of this condemnation?
4. What do you make of Jesus' declaration that such people 'will be punished most severely'?
5. Bishop Mark tentatively suggested that Jesus may have a similar warning for some in leadership in the church today. What did you make of that claim?
6. How do we avoid being like the teachers of the law who desired to look good and get rich – all at the cost of loving God and those in need?

Read 12:41-44

7. Why was the widow's gift greater than the other gifts that were being given?
8. What do you think was the widow's motivation and how does her act contrast with the rich who were putting great amounts in?
9. Do you think it's true that, "you can give without loving, but you can't love without giving"?
10. What is one way that you can show your love to God more clearly this week?

From Bishop Mark: "we think of this generous, humble, lovely lady.... Literally giving her last pennies... not even realising for a moment – that Jesus – the Saviour of the World was watching... we not only see HER heart... but something of the beautiful heart of Jesus as he responds with generous praise telling his disciples about her."

Reflection: What will you take away from this message and today's discussion? Share with the group if you feel able, then pray for one another.