

“Beware of How You Live and Give”

Luke 20:45-21:4

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I. Introduction

- A. The long day of controversy in the temple is now closed
 - 1. Jesus is now in the audience of all the people. He turns to His disciples and warns them of the false religious leaders (v. 45)
- B. Jesus warns us in our text of two areas
 - 1. The danger of false living for God
 - 2. The danger of false giving to God

II. The Danger of False Living for God (Luke 20:45-47)

- A. The caution (vv. 45-46a)
 - 1. Jesus had His most bitter denunciations against the established religious leaders of His day
 - 2. Illustration- “Woe” false teachers (Matthew 23)
 - 3. Paul (Acts 20)
 - 4. Still today- “beware”
- B. Their conduct (vv. 46b-47a)
 - 1. Their pride (v. 46)
 - a) “They desire to walk in long robes” (v. 46)
 - b) “...and love greetings in the markets” (v. 46)
 - c) “...and the highest seats in the synagogues” (v. 46)
 - d) “The chief room at feasts” (v. 46)
 - 2. Their greed (v. 47a)
 - a) “Which devour widows houses” (v. 47a)
 - b) Illustration- “word of faith”
 - c) (1 Timothy 6)
 - 3. Their hypocrisy (v. 47c)
 - a) “For a shew make long prayers” (v. 47c)
 - 1) Illustration- Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 6:5-6)
 - 4. Their condemnation (v. 47b)
 - a) “The same shall receive greater damnation” (v. 47)
 - b) Knowledge brings greater responsibility
 - 1) (James 3:1)
 - c) Implied degrees of punishment in Hell
 - d) Beware of false living

III. The Danger of False Giving to God (Luke 21:1-4)

- A. What Jesus saw (vv. 1-2)
 - 1. Jesus still sees us today
 - 2. Jesus was a people watcher
 - 3. Jesus looks at our hearts and our motives

4. Why was Jesus interested in the offering?
 - a) Because giving when rightly done is an act of worship and part of our Christian life
 - 1) (2 Corinthians 8:7)
 - b) It's a test of our character and reveals the state of our hearts
 - 1) Jesus said "where your treasure is..."
 - c) Jesus knows the blessings that giving brings
 - 1) "It is more blessed to give than receive" (Acts 20:35)
 - 2) We love this story but don't practice its lessons
 - 3) Jesus saw not only their gifts, but He also saw their motives
 - a. "The rich men casting their gifts into the treasury" (v. 1)
 - b. (Mark 12:41)
 - c. (Matthew 6)
 - d. (2 Corinthians 9:7)
- B. What Jesus said (vv. 3-4)
1. God looks not at the portion but at the proportion of our giving
 - a) He doesn't look so much at what we give but more at what we keep
 2. Giving that pleases God is giving that costs us
 - a) (2 Samuel 24)
 3. God can do great things with tiny offerings
 4. Our giving is proof of our love for God and others
 - a) (2 Corinthians 8:8)
 - 1) We can give without love but we cannot love without giving
 5. Giving is Christ-like
 - a) (2 Corinthians 8:9)
 - b) (2 Corinthians 9:15)

V. Conclusion

- A. Let's follow this poor widow's example
1. God is sublimely equal opportunity