



Mark 12:28–44 **Lesson 19**

All four gospels give special attention to the last week of Jesus' earthly life, which is what we find beginning here in Mark chapter 12. Again, Jesus has made His triumphant entry into Jerusalem, and with shouts of hosanna still ringing in the ears of the religious leaders, they are at a loss as to how to handle this spiritual intrusion. Jesus is involved in a confrontation in the temple with the scribes and Pharisees.

The Context: Mark 12:28–44

With your Bible and homework lesson in hand, find a quiet spot to read and study. Remember, it can be anywhere—in your home, your backyard, even your prayer closet. Read the passage at least two times without interruption.

1. Which of the events in these verses is most meaningful to you and why?

The Great Command: Mark 12:28–34

2. Following the dispute with the Sadducees, another scribe comes to see Jesus in verse 28 and seems to have a different attitude. He asks an important question. What is it?
3. In Jesus' answer, what does He say is essential to a person's relationship with God?
 - a. Why is the command to love God the first and most important command?
 - b. List the four ways Jesus commands us to love God:
 - * *
 - * *

4. In practical terms, what does it mean to love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength?
 - a. Which of these four aspects do you find most difficult to fulfill?

5. What is the second command, given in verse 31?

6. Have you ever witnessed a truly loving deed?
 - a. What impressed you most about this act?

 - b. Read Luke 10:25–37. How does this passage in Luke clarify the meaning behind the command to love your neighbor?

 - c. Why do we often struggle to love our neighbors?

 - d. In what ways do we naturally love ourselves?

Bringing it into Focus:

We know that some people in our life are so hard to love, they seem unlovable; but Jesus wants us to love them just the way we love ourselves. If you can relate to this right now, take a moment to write a short prayer naming that person here. Ask God to forgive you for not loving them as you should and to divinely infuse you with agape for them in a way you have never known before. You'll be amazed at what God can do!

Dear Lord,

Love through me toward _____

7. Let's dig into the Gospels a little deeper to see what else Jesus says about real love. Finish the sentence for each *real love...*

Scripture Reference	Real Love
Matthew 6:24	<i>Real love...</i>
Luke 6:35	<i>Real love...</i>
John 13:14–17	<i>Real love...</i>
John 15:9–10	<i>Real love...</i>
John 17:23	<i>Real love...</i>

8. As you review your own life, how well are you living out 'the Great Commandment'?
9. After hearing Jesus' response, what insight does this scribe have in verse 33?
- a. How are these two commands a summary of the whole Law?
10. Jesus makes an interesting statement to this scribe. What does He say in verse 34?
- a. From the following statements, choose which one would best describe what Jesus is telling him.
- "You're not far from the kingdom of God because..."*
- i. It's about 2 blocks from Bay Area Blvd and FM 528
 - ii. It's about facing the truth honestly according to what the Word of God says and not by religious party demands
 - iii. Death is approaching quickly
 - iv. None of the above.
11. After this interaction, why did the Pharisees give up questioning Jesus?

The Great Condemnation: Mark 12:35–40

Regardless of their intellectual prowess, theological expertise, and witty comments, these religious leaders were no match for the King. He will have the last word and silence these critics once and for all. With pointed statements Jesus unveils their hypocrisy.

12. There is an interesting turn of events in verses 35–37. Jesus begins to teach about the Messiah. Now, He's asking the questions! What does He want to know?

- a. Why does He quote Psalm 110 and David's reference?

- b. Jesus was referring to His own status as the Messiah. Why would He bring this up at such a tense moment?

13. In verses 38–40 Jesus shows six vivid ways the scribes showed their hypocrisy. What were they?

- *
- *
- *
- *
- *
- *

14. Who would condemn them for their hypocrisy?

- a. How was this warning actually an act of grace extended to them?

- b. Do we see any of this hypocrisy in the Church today? If so, in what way?

15. Mark goes on in verse 40 to tell us the common people heard Him gladly. Do you think they understood all that He was saying? Why or why not?

The Great Contribution: Mark 12:41–44

Leaving the clash and conflict of the religious leaders, Jesus moves through the temple and finds a seat across from the treasury; He is the original people watcher! Again using every opportunity to teach and equip His followers, He spots an incredible example, full of life application.

16. Why and how did this poor widow catch Jesus' eye?
 - a. In contrast to the behavior exhibited by the Pharisees and the wealthy, what do you note about this dear lady's demeanor?
 - b. When the widow gave her two mites, how much did she keep for herself and her own well-being?

17. In the Lord's economy, generosity is not measured by how much is given, but by the spirit and motive of giving. In what spirit are we to give to God? In the following passages try to determine the attitude for giving that please God:

Scripture Reference	Attitude for Giving
2 Samuel 24:24	
Proverbs 3:9	
Matthew 6:3	
Matthew 10:8b	
Matthew 26:7–12	
2 Corinthians 9:6–7	

18. What opportunities for sacrificial giving do you see around you?
 - a. How are you responding?

19. Explain what Jesus meant that she gave more than anyone else?
- What message was He trying to convey to the disciples about true sacrificial giving through her example?
 - Consider our life-style as we live in a country which is materialistically wealthy. How is the widow a challenge to us today?
20. As you consider the incredible sacrifice of this widow, is there something in your life that may need to change when it comes to giving back to God? Beloved, has God put something on your heart that He would like you to give to His work or to someone in His family?

Bringing it into Focus:

Take a self-examination...what is the attitude that best describes your giving?

- ___ *Hesitantly. I just don't know if I can this month. How will I pay my bills?*
- ___ *Legalistically. It's what I'm supposed to do! What if someone finds out I don't give?*
- ___ *Rigidly. I have to do this! Where's my checkbook!*
- ___ *Expectantly. If I give.... Oooohh! I wonder what God will give me in return.*
- ___ *Lovingly and sacrificially. I'm so grateful for the opportunity to honor my Savior.*

Perhaps you checked more than one box, or perhaps you've been at all of these places at one time or another. Remember 2 Corinthians 9:7, ask for this kind of heart in your giving, and He will meet you where you are.

This chapter closes with the picture of a humble woman of faith giving an incredible sacrificial gift. It was a dramatic contrast to the greedy hypocritical leaders of the temple. This is also a prelude to a much greater sacrifice of love we will see as we move through the Gospel of Mark.