

**“RELIGION: TRUE OR FALSE”**

**Mark 12:38-44**

Pastor Steve Cavallaro

**I. How does Jesus warn the disciples & people (vv. 38-40)**

*“Beware of the scribes”*

*“like to walk around in long robes, and like greetings in the marketplaces”:*

*“best seats in the synagogues and places of honor at feasts”*

*“devour widows’ houses”*

*“for a pretense making long prayer”*

**Jesus warns of self-serving people \_\_\_\_\_ behind \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Ezekiel 22:6-7**

**1 Timothy 6:10**

**2 Timothy 3:5-6**

*“Instead of helping those they taught to know, trust and serve God, they used their position to further their own self-centered ambitions and their desire for a reputation.”*  
-Sinclair Ferguson

**II. What will become of the self-serving who hide behind religion? (vv. 40b)**

Acts 6 ➔ 1 Timothy 5

*“They will receive the greater condemnation.”*

**Those who \_\_\_\_\_ behind religion receive greater \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Deuteronomy 10:17-18**

**Job 29:11-13**

**Psalms 68:5-6**

**Luke 10:13-14**

**Acts 6:1ff**

**1 Timothy 5:3-16**

**James 1:27**

*“The experts in the law represent those who are in it for themselves, building personal empires rather than God’s kingdom.”* -Mark Strauss

**III. How does Jesus provide a positive example for them? (vv. 41-44)**

**COMPARE & CONTRAST**

<b>Scribes</b>	<b>Widow</b>
Identified by their clothing	<i>Identified by their clothing</i>
Dependent on others for money	<i>Often dependent on others for money</i>
Enjoy privilege & honor	<i>No privilege to enjoy</i>
Make a show of religion	<i>Gave what she had to live on</i>
Devour widow’s houses	<i>Destitute, driving to begging</i>
Will receive the strongest condemnation	<i>Received commendation by Jesus</i>

*“sat down opposite the treasury and watched”*

*“Rich people put in large sums” → “a poor widow put in two small copper coins”*

*“out of their abundance” → “out of her poverty”*

Jesus affirms all who \_\_\_\_\_ enough to \_\_\_\_\_ themselves.

**Deuteronomy 14:22-29**

*“Our giving is not measured by amount, but by sacrifice.”* -Sinclair Ferguson

*“It was this that the disciples needed to understand, for the call to the gospel is a call for absolute surrender to God and total trust in him.”* -William Lane

Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ whether one’s religion is true or false.

**BIG IDEA:**