



Nov. 11, 2018 Mark 12:38-44 & 1 Kgs. 17: 10-16

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ENTERING THE SCENE:

In Jesus' day the people to watch out for were the people who had structured things for their own benefit. Jesus teaches that we can spot them when they say one thing and do another. One person looks down on another who hasn't the money or position of power, yet votes for things that will make it virtually impossible for that person to achieve the benefits of hard work or education. Another person thinks that if the other just worked hard enough God would bless them too. We may even find such a person when looking in the mirror. Who are the ones we need to watch out for today?

Mark 12:38-44

38 As he taught, Jesus said, "**Watch out for** the teachers of the law. They like to **walk around in flowing robes** and be **greeted** in the **marketplaces**, 39 and have the most **important seats** in the **synagogues** and the places of **honor** at **banquets**. 40 They **devour widows'** houses and for a **show** make **lengthy prayers**. Such men will be **punished most**

severely." 41 Jesus **sat down opposite** the place where the **offerings** were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the **temple treasury**. **Many rich people** threw in **large amounts**. 42 But a **poor widow** came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a **fraction of a penny**. 43 Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, this **poor widow** has put more into the **treasury** than all the others. 44 They all gave out of their **wealth**; but she, out of her **poverty**, put in **everything**--all she had to live on."

DISCUSSION QUESTION: The widow did the right thing because it was the right thing not because she expected a reward. When was the last time I did that?

PRAYER: There is a Jewish Meditation that teaches: "On our inbreath, we should concentrate on receiving life from God. That inbreath is life sustaining. On our outbreath we should give everything we have back to the universe. Our outbreath may be the last we ever take, and, at the end of our life, we want to make sure we have given everything we have back to the world". Lord, help me to realize this truth so that I, like the widow, can live in trust as she did. Amen