

## Discussion Questions: The Great Reveal Commanding King – Mark 12:35-44

Drawn from the April 6, 2025 sermon by Dr. Jeff Chandler

Opener: What are some of the more common ways Christians in different professions publicly display their faith? Consider professional clergy, famous athletes, Christian teenagers, etc.

What kind of reaction do you have to these public displays of faith? Admiration? Disapproval? Do your reactions vary? Why or why not?

*<sup>35</sup> While Jesus was teaching in the temple courts, he asked, “Why do the teachers of the law say that the Messiah is the son of David? <sup>36</sup> David himself, speaking by the Holy Spirit, declared: “The Lord said to my Lord: “Sit at my right hand until I put your enemies under your feet.” <sup>37</sup> David himself calls him ‘Lord.’ How then can he be his son?” The large crowd listened to him with delight.*

*<sup>38</sup> As he taught, Jesus said, “Watch out for the teachers of the law. They like to walk around in flowing robes and be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, <sup>39</sup> and have the most important seats in the synagogues and the places of honor at banquets. <sup>40</sup> They devour widows’ houses and for a show make lengthy prayers. These men will be punished most severely.”*

*<sup>41</sup> 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. <sup>42</sup> But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a few cents. <sup>43</sup> Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. <sup>44</sup> They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on.” Mark 12:35-44*

1. Why do you think Jesus challenges the common understanding of the Messiah as merely the "Son of David"? What does this reveal about his identity as Lord?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. According to Jesus, what common actions did the scribes take to stand out from the rest? What might their motives have been for doing so?

3. What types of things do people do today to get the attention of their friends or the public at large? What might their motives be for doing so?
  
4. Does Jesus' commendation of the widow imply anything about his view of the gifts by the rich? If so, what?
  
5. When you give, do you ask, "How much should I give?" Or, "How much should I keep for myself and those dependent on me?" How might these changes impact your giving?
  
6. If you had to summarize Jesus' teaching regarding giving in one statement, what would it be?

Group Prayer time: Close in prayer, thanking God that we have a model for sacrifice and generosity in Christ. Pray that your group would give of themselves in light of what God did for them. Pray that God would show all of your group new ways to be generous with everything they have been given.

For reflection in the group or on your own:

- A. Share an experience in which following Jesus cost you something.

B. How can we encourage one another to be authentic in our faith and sacrificial in our giving?

C. How does the story of the widow point us to Jesus?

**Next week, April 13, pastor Rick will speak on the topic “The Anointed King” covering Mark 14:1-11. There will be discussion questions available at [www.sequimcommunitychurch.org/downloads](http://www.sequimcommunitychurch.org/downloads)**