

Third Sunday in Lent – 2024

Saturday, 3/2 at 4:00 & Sunday, 3/3 at 9:00



The Holy Week Journey

**Beware
Amazing
Offering
Destruction**

Based on the Booklet
Days 12-14

Text: Mark 12:38 - 13:2 NAS-95

Lenten Wednesdays: Services 11 & 7; Meals 12 & 6

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: As we continue **The Holy Week Journey**, this is sermon **5 of 14**.

Tuesday of Holy Week – *according to St. Mark* – includes 17 events. So far, we have covered **7 of the 17**.

In this sermon we focus on these events:

- **8:** Jesus' strong warning about the scribes.
- **9:** Jesus' surprising comment about a meager offering.
- **10:** Jesus' striking comment about the temple stones.

Day 12 (Tu, 2/27) – **Beware of the Scribes:** In the previous sermon, we learned that scribes were *"...specialists in Mosaic legal matters..." (BW, Danker)*. They were intelligent men, *but many were also spiritually dead and corrupt*.

Related Scripture Readings:

NAS-95

- **Exodus 22:22** "You shall not afflict [oppress, humiliate] any widow or orphan."
- **Luke 11:46, 52** [Jesus said to the scribes:] "Woe to you lawyers as well! For you weigh men down with burdens hard to bear, while you yourselves will not even touch

the burdens with one of your fingers.... Woe to you lawyers! For you have taken away the key of knowledge; you yourselves did not enter, and you hindered those who were entering.”

- **James 3:1** “Let not many *of you* become teachers [of God’s word], my brethren, knowing that as such we will incur a stricter judgment [*scrutiny, examination*].”

Day 12 Text: Mark 12:38 In [Jesus’] teaching He was saying: “Beware of the scribes who like to walk around in long robes, and *like respectful greetings* in the market places,³⁹ and chief seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets,⁴⁰ who devour widows’ houses, and for appearance’s sake offer long prayers; these will receive greater condemnation.”

- Jesus accused the scribes of **LOOKING honorable on the outside** – by ✦wearing long robes, ✦receiving respectful greetings, and ✦sitting in the best seats, **BUT BEING devils on the inside** – as they took money from the widows *for their worthless prayers* (**Proverbs 15:29**)!
- The RC priests are similar as they ✦look religious and ✦receive respectful greetings **BUT TEACH FALSELY** – that **the blood of Jesus does NOT cleanse from all sins** (**1 Jn. 1:7**) and **prayers for the dead help people move from purgatory to heaven** (**Lk. 16:22; 23:43**), while receiving payment for those *worthless prayers*. **Let us NOT be deceived!** See this misleading and horrible info!¹

Day 13 (We, 2/28) – The Widow’s Offering:

Related Scripture Readings:

NAS-95

- **2 Kings 12:9** ...Jehoiada the priest took a chest and bored a hole in its lid and put it beside the altar, on the right

¹ <https://www.catholic.com/ga/how-many-masses-for-the-dead>

side as one comes into the house of the LORD; and the priests who guarded the threshold put in it all the money which was brought into the house of the LORD.

- **2 Corinthians 8:12** [*Paul helps us to understand that our giving is related to our receiving.*] For if the readiness is present, it is acceptable according to what a person has, not according to what he does not have.

Day 13 Text: 12:41 ...[Jesus] [*probably weary from being repeatedly challenged and from teaching*] sat down opposite the treasury, and *began* observing how the people were putting money into the treasury; and many rich people were putting in large sums. // When people have a lot, they can put in a lot *without incurring any negative outcome in their lives.*

⁴² A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which amount to a cent. ⁴³ Calling His disciples to Him [*in a teachable moment*], [Jesus] said to them, “Truly I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all the contributors to the treasury; ⁴⁴ for they all put in out of their surplus, but she, out of her poverty, put in all she owned, all she had to live on.”

- **Her Heart, Trust, and Proportion:** Jesus ✦saw into her heart, ✦saw her trust in God to supply her needs, and – *amazingly* – ✦saw her give “*all she had to live on.*”
- **Our Heart, Trust, and Proportion:** Jesus knows ✦what we believe, ✦what we have, ✦what we give, and ✦the attitude with which we give. *Let us show our faith by giving to God first, gladly, and proportionately (2Co. 9:7)!*

Day 14 (Th, 2/29) – Jesus Foretells Destruction of the Temple:

Related Scripture Reading – The First Temple: NAS-95

Jeremiah 7:12 “But go now to My place which was in Shiloh, where I made My name dwell at the first, and see what I did

to it because of the wickedness of My people Israel [*who treated the ark of the covenant like good luck charm*]. ¹³ And now, because you have done all these things,” declares the LORD, “and I spoke to you, rising up early and speaking, but you did not hear, and I called you but you did not answer, ¹⁴ therefore, I will do to the house which is called by My name, in which you trust, and to the place which I gave you and your fathers, as I did to Shiloh. ¹⁵ I will cast you out of My sight, as I have cast out all your brothers, all the offspring of Ephraim.”

Day 14 Text: 13:1 As [Jesus] was going out of the temple, one of His disciples said to Him, “Teacher, behold what wonderful stones and what wonderful buildings!” ² And Jesus said to him, “Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left upon another which will not be torn down.”

- The second temple was completed around 516 BC: Following the plans of Herod the Great, it underwent remodeling for 84 years (from 20 BC to AD 64). “**Huge stone blocks, some measuring 37 ft long, 18 ft wide, and 12 ft high, and decorated with gold, were used to build Herod’s temple...**” (TLSB).
- Why was every stone torn down? To retrieve the gold and silver that melted and went in between the stones when the temple burned. Jesus’ statement about the stones seemed impossible, but He was exactly right!
Let us always believe Jesus and live in repentance!

Let Us Pray: Lord Jesus, You have warned us, taught us, and laid down Your life for us; *grant us wholehearted gratitude, deep devotion, and willing obedience!*

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