

I. The most impressive

- A. Context
- B. Who are the scribes?
- C. Addressing *his disciples* in the presence of the crowd.
- D. What's wrong with the scribes? (Matthew 23:1-36)
- E. And for pretence made long prayers – two problems
- F. Warnings for elders and pastors

II. The least impressive

- A. Jesus sees a “poor widow” giving money to the Temple treasury
- B. This is *not* a call to give away all of your money to the church
- C. The giving that impresses men is *not* the giving that impresses God
- D. Do-gooding is the order of the day, but we need to answer two questions:
 - i. what is the goal for our giving and our work – what do we want to accomplish?
 - ii. who is the audience of our giving and our work – who are we trying to impress?

III. How to impress God

- A. We are called to impress God, and not men.
 - i. (God rewarding us if our piety is really about him and not other people: Matthew 6:1-18)
 - ii. (God glorifying those who love and obey him: Romans 2:7,10; 5:2; **8:17,21,30**; 9:23; 1 Corinthians 2:7; 15:43; 2 Corinthians 3:18; 4:17; Ephesians 1:18; 3:13; 2 Thessalonians 1:10)
- B. Remember that the kind of life God likes and the kind of life that impresses men are almost totally unrelated.
- C. Audience is motivation. Whose delight do you live for?
- D. How to impress God with your giving.
- E. How to impress God in your leading.

IV. The upside down kingdom