



The Word @ Home

November 8, 2009

Scripture: Mark 12:38-44

Thoughts: The scribes walked around the market place proudly, with their grand robes too large and flowing to allow them to move swiftly or do any work. They also often wore tassels with their robes to show their place in society as nobility. This inspiration originally came from Moses, as directed by God, in Numbers 15: 38-41. God asked for the Israelites to wear tassels, as a reminder to themselves to keep the commandments and live a holy life to God. In Jesus' time, this purpose was lost. It went from being a humble sign to live your life for God to an outward sign of status in society. Jesus warned against using God for this attitude of position. In contrast, we then read about the widow. A woman who was too poor for any fancy ornaments on her clothes, and who humbly walked into the market place practically unnoticed. Yet, she is the example by which Jesus asks us to live. Her symbol of faith was her trust in the Lord to provide everything she needed, thus allowing her to give from the little of what she had. Her witness and reverence showed through her actions of trust and faith, knowing God would provide her in abundance.

Discussion: Is Jesus saying we should give away everything we have to please God? What is Jesus trying to share with us through these two stories? What are the motives of the scribes versus the widow?

Activities: Read Numbers 15:38-41. Reflect on the purpose of symbols according to this scripture. Think about the different signs of faith that surround you and ask yourself what they mean to you? This week, every time you see a cross, think of the meaning and blessing of Jesus in your life.