

Mark 12:38-44 Bible Study Review

Time and Place of Writing:

If the Gospel of Mark was used as a reference by Matthew and Luke, then it is the earliest of the Synoptic Gospels. Since it is generally thought that the Gospels of Matthew and Luke come from the period A.D. 80-90, perhaps Mark is to be dated around A.D. 70. However, if Luke antedates Acts (Acts being the second volume of Luke's work), and if Acts was finished shortly after A.D. 62 (when its narrative ends), then Mark should be dated even earlier.

The Church Fathers place the writing of Mark in Rome or, more generally, in Italy. This view is corroborated by: (1) Mark's association with Peter, who also addressed Christians in Babylon/Rome ([1 Pet. 5:13](#)), (2) many "Latinisms" in the Greek text ([Mark 4:21](#); [5:9](#), [15](#); [6:27](#), [37](#); [7:4](#); [12:14](#); [15:15](#), [39](#), [44](#)), and (3) the probable reference to members of the Roman church ([Mark 15:21](#); cf. [Rom. 16:13](#)).

Original Audience:

Beyond the specific destination of Rome or, more generally, Italy (see "Time and Place of Writing"), the translation of Semitic terms ([Mark 3:17](#); [5:41](#); [15:22](#), [34](#)) and the explanation of Jewish customs ([Mark 7:2-4](#); [15:42](#)) suggest that a Gentile readership is anticipated, though not to the exclusion of Jewish followers of Christ.

QUESTIONS FOR MARK 12: 38-44

V. 38 What doctrine is referred to in the passage?

Who are the Scribes, and how they significant in the passage?

v. 39. What was the significance of the long clothing in verse 39?

Why do they receive chief seats in the synagogue? And what is it's comparable today?

v.40. How are they devouring widow's houses?

v. 44. What is the consequence of the Scribes devouring widow's houses?

v. 44. Why did Jesus say her penny was worth more than their larger contribution?

What is Christ saying to us today regarding how we obtain our wealth, how we treat the oppressed, and how we give and use our influence for or against the poor?

Prayer: Reflect upon the passage and any parallels to yourself and construct a prayer to God.
