

**Life Group Notes**  
**Sunday 29 October 2017**

**Speaker:** Sean Green  
**Series:** Disciples of Jesus  
**Title:** Beware & Behold  
**Passages:** Mark 12

The 'Disciples of Jesus' sermon series seeks to highlight the sharp contrasts and stark choices *Mark 12:13-17* in how Mark arranges his material. This week Sean looked at Mark 12.

**Mark 12:1-12** Beware the religious grabbers. Jesus likened the spiritual leaders of his day to rebel tenants in the vineyard who grabbed it all for themselves.

**Mark 12:13-17** Beware religious hypocrites. The Pharisees formed an unlikely alliance with the Herodians. They said one thing but their hearts were far off in another place.

**Mark 12:18-27** Beware religious pride. The proud Sadducees had their proof texts and reason yet they didn't know God's word or His power.

**Mark 12:28-34** Beware religious grading. This scribe had figured out the most important laws but still only saw Jesus as a teacher. He was near but not there.

**Mark 12:35-40** Beware religious showoffs. The Scribes loved flowing robes, long prayers and the seats of honour. Yet secretly they devoured widows.

**Mark 12:41-44** Behold the widow. Jesus call his followers to learn from her. She gave all she had to God.

Chapter 12 paints both sharp contrasts and calls us to make stark choices as we follow Jesus:

Beware...	Behold...
Rebel tenants who grab	Follower who gives
Hypocrites in unlikely alliances	Radical trust
Pride of proof texts and reason	Devotion to God, un-noticed by most
Grades law to reveal the important	Trusts God for her shortfall
Known for robes, prayers & seats	Remembered for a quiet act of faith
Gave small part of surplus	Gave all she had to live on

**Suggested questions:**

- 1) Why do the religious Grabbers, Hypocrites, Proud, Graders, Show-offs and the Ungrateful get under Jesus' skin?
- 2) What is it about the widow's example that most challenges your faith?
- 3) The rebel tenant who grabs or the follower who gives. What do you need to adjust?