

STUDIES FROM THE DESIRE OF AGES

Chapter LXVII (67) “*Woes on the Pharisees*”

- A. Read [Matthew 23:11-12](#). How did the religious leaders of Jesus’ day seek greatness? What does true greatness consist of in Heaven’s eyes?
- B. Jesus told His disciples that the widow gave more than all the others. What made her gift so valuable?
- C. “It is the motive that gives character to our acts, stamping them with ignominy or with high moral worth.” What are the motivations behind most religious actions?

1. In the first paragraph, the author uses the term, “contest.” Who were the participants and what was the contest really about?
2. Why were the people “perplexed” at the contest between the priests and rabbis and Jesus?
3. What did the priests and rabbis have reverence toward?
4. What did the priests and rabbis claim in order to demand respect?
5. How did these leaders keep the regulations they insisted others keep?
6. What was the original purpose of marking the clothing and what was the purpose of the priests and rabbis?
7. Why should we not call someone Rabbi or Master? Is it wrong to call someone pastor or elder?
8. For what purpose did these leaders gain the confidence of pious widows?
9. The woman tried to quietly secret her offering into the box. Why did she cry when she knew Jesus had seen her?
10. What advice would people in her day have given her regarding the small gift?
11. Her gift was valued, not by the coin, but by what? What gives character to our acts?
12. The author wrote, “The ‘two mites which make a farthing’ have brought to God’s treasury an amount of money far greater than the contributions of those rich Jews.” How?
13. How is it dangerous to think of some sins being less consequence than others? How did they use this belief to their advantage?
14. How complicated did they make the requirements of the law?
15. Jesus had several reasons for comparing them to the white washed tombs. How many did you discover?
16. How did rejecting the Savior make them responsible for the blood of all the slain from Able to Christ?
17. “Righteous Indignation!” How was it revealed in Jesus? How will it be revealed in His followers? How will it not be used?
18. How did Jesus leave the temple for the last time? What was the meaning of His last comment?
19. Personal views: List a favorite section or some new thought from this reading.