

CONFRONTING ERROR

Luke 20:45–21:4

- I. Jesus **warns** His disciples to beware the prideful hypocrisy of the scribes. (vs. 46)

- II. False shepherds will receive the greater **condemnation**. (vs. 47)

- III. Jesus pointed to the poor widow who gave all she had to a corrupt religious system **illustrating** that destruction and condemnation is just and on the horizon. (vs. 21:1–4)



March 22, 2026 – Kevin Yates

FURTHER UP, FURTHER IN

1. In Luke 20:46, Jesus warns His disciples to "beware" of the scribes who love fancy robes, public greetings, best seats, and places of honor. What modern forms of seeking status, titles, or recognition in church or Christian life might mirror this pride, and how can you guard against them personally?
Cross Reference Matthew 23:5–7; 1 Peter 5:5–6
2. Jesus describes the scribes as those who "for a pretense make long prayers" (Luke 20:47; cf. Matthew 23:14). How might we sometimes use spiritual activities (like prayer, Bible reading, or serving) to appear more godly than we really are? What steps can you take to ensure your devotion is genuine rather than performative?
Cross-references: Matthew 6:5–6; Isaiah 29:13
3. In Matthew 23:5–7, 11–12, Jesus criticizes the scribes and Pharisees for doing deeds to be seen by others and exalting themselves. Where in your life do you seek to be "seen" or honored by people instead of serving humbly? How can you apply Jesus' teaching that "the greatest among you shall be your servant"?
Cross-references: Mark 9:35; Philippians 2:3–8
4. The scribes "devour widows' houses" (Luke 20:47; cf. Matthew 23:14), exploiting the vulnerable for personal gain. In what ways do people today—perhaps even in ministry contexts—take advantage of the poor, elderly, or helpless (financially, emotionally, or spiritually)? How does this convict you to protect rather than harm those in need?
Cross-references: James 1:27; Isaiah 10:1–2
5. If the widow gave her last two coins to a system Jesus had just condemned for "devouring widows' houses" (Luke 20:47 → 21:1–4), how might this warn us against modern teachings (like "seed faith" or prosperity promises) that encourage sacrificial giving from those who can least afford it? What biblical principles should guide our giving instead? Cross-references: 2 Corinthians 9:7; Proverbs 22:16
6. Overall, the passage contrasts false shepherds (prideful, exploitative) with true devotion (humble, protective of the needy). Reflecting on Luke 20:45–21:4, what one change in your heart, attitudes, or actions would help you avoid the scribes' errors and better reflect Jesus' compassion for the vulnerable?
Cross-references: Ezekiel 34:10–16; 1 Peter 5:2–4

"I have come home at last! This is my real country! I belong here. This is the land I have been looking for all my life, though I never knew it till now... Come further up, come further in!"
— C.S. Lewis, The Last Battle