

## The Problem of Pretending

Mark 12:38-40

I. Hypocrisy is Pride: The goal of the scribes was to be admired by others (Mark 12:38-39).

- A. They dressed a certain way to appear superior.
- B. They loved being greeted with respect.
- C. They sought public positions of honor.

Application:

- Am I deceiving myself about my motives for appearing a certain way or having certain positions?

II. Hypocrisy is Deceit: The scribes appeared spiritual publicly, but mistreated people privately (Mark 12:40a).

- A. Living in greed and dishonesty: In private, the scribes did not hesitate to take financial advantage of widows.
- B. Keeping up spiritual appearances: In public, the scribes prayed lengthy public prayers.

Application:

- What does God (and perhaps my family) know about me that I try to keep people from knowing?
- Do I live for what others see and think of me or what God sees and thinks (Hebrews 4:13; 1 Corinthians 4:5)?

III. Hypocrisy will be judged: Jesus says that the scribes would be punished severely (Mark 12:40b).

Application:

- What might be the consequences of the pretending that I do? What should I do about it?