

November 11, 2018 32<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary time

Reach out with compassion to the poor, the lowly, and the neglected!

1Kings 17:10-16

Psalm 146:7-10

Hebrews 9: 24-28

Mark 12:38-44

Elijah asked the widow of Zarephath, the poorest of the poor, to share her last amount of flour and oil. She obeyed and was rewarded with a jar of flour that would not empty, and a jug of oil that would not run dry.

The psalmist describes the Lord as the One who secures justice for the oppressed, gives food to the hungry, raises those who are bowed down, sets the captives free, and protects the strangers. He loves the just and thwarts the way of the wicked.

Paul describes Christ as the High Priest who entered the sanctuary of heaven and now appears before God on our behalf. He appeared once for all to take away sin by his sacrifice. He will appear a second time to bring salvation to those who eagerly await him.

Jesus warns the people of those scribes who always seek seats of honor and wear long robes while reciting lengthy prayers as a pretext. As he and the disciples watched the people put money into the Temple's treasury a poor widow put in several small coins. "She has put in more," Jesus said, "than all the other contributors because she contributed all she had, her whole livelihood."



**The Father illuminated the Son  
Who enlightens our paths with the light of the Holy Spirit.**

Jesus is telling us that there are those who give little of the much they have and since they give it for show and recognition it spoils their giving. But there are those who have little and give it all and it is through these that God clarifies what exceptional generosity means. Some day all that you have will be given away so give now while you can but first see that you yourself deserve to be a giver.

### **On Giving**

Give to the one who asks of you. (Matt 5:42)

Let not your hand be clenched when it is time to give.(Sirach 4:31)

Be not impatient in prayers, and neglect not the giving of alms. (Sirach 7:10)

Give without sadness or compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. (2 Cor 9:7)

But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right is doing (Matt 6:3)

The Lord Jesus who himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' (Acts 20:35)

Give to the Most High as he has given to you, generously, according to your means for the LORD is one who always repays, and he will give back to you sevenfold. (Sirach 35:9-10)

"There are those who give little of the much which they have -  
And they give it for recognition  
And their hidden desire makes their gifts unwholesome.  
And there are those who have little and give it all.  
These are the believers in life and the bounty of life  
and their coffer is never empty. "(Kahlil Gibran)

## Lost and Found

Do we live at the expense of others in their rightful need?  
If we freely intention to let go of all that we have,  
what belongs to us will stay with us,  
all else will seek its rightful place.

The mystery of this prayerful intent  
is that it gives us the power to call back  
that which is missing but belongs to us.  
Let Wisdom rearrange.



The tug and lure of seeking and hanging on  
to the choicest morsels  
is a burden with bitter conflicts.  
Ahab and Jezebel paid a high price for Naboth's vineyard.

The ebb tide of releasing thought  
creates a returning healing stream  
transforming our lives  
into something more productive and excellent.

Return to God all things that we  
Have considered as ours  
Or believed belong to us.  
Start afresh with God's bounty.

Put aside what are human considerations,  
it is in letting go that we receive  
according to the eternal purpose of  
creating harmony with God and neighbor.  
rfm

*P.S. When you receive Holy Communion  
let go of all you have into the hands of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
What belongs to you will stay with you,  
what you should have but don't will finds its way to you,  
what doesn't truly belong to you  
will find its way to where it belongs.....  
Let Wisdom rearrange!*



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