



Reflection on the Scriptures of the Day

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Saturday of Ninth Week in Ordinary Time

A poor widow also came and put in two small coins worth a few cents..."Amen, I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all the other contributors to the treasury.

For they have all contributed from their surplus wealth, but she, from her poverty, has contributed all she had, her whole livelihood."

The phrase "widow's mite" has made its way into the English language. It often refers to something small which, nonetheless, displays a tremendous generosity of spirit. The widow gave a very small amount of money to the temple treasure, but in giving that very little; she was giving everything she had to live on. Jesus identifies her to his own disciples as an example of generosity of spirit. He often encouraged his disciples to learn from the goodness of ordinary people.

At this time in the Gospel, Jesus was in Jerusalem, soon to meet his end. This woman who gave everything was a figure of the sacrifice he was soon to make on the cross, giving everything away, his very life, for us.

This insignificant widow who had next to nothing to give was, in reality, a living image of generosity. The widow reminds us that there are saints in our midst that we may not notice. Generosity of spirit can be expressed in very ordinary ways. There can be times in our lives when we have very little, but if we are generous with the little we have, we are rich in the eyes of the Lord.

Personal giving, not out of abundance but from substance, is not measured by the quality or quantity of the work made, but by the purity of intention and loving generosity.

Prayer for Generosity

Lord Jesus, teach me to be generous;
teach me to serve you as you deserve,
 to give and not to count the cost,
 to fight and not to heed the wounds,
 to toil and not to seek for rest,
 to labor and not to seek reward,
except that of knowing that I do your will. Amen.
(St. Ignatius of Loyola)

