



Thirty Second Sunday Of The Year The Widow's Mighty Mite

Introduction

With regard to gifts we have a saying that goes: 'It's the thought that counts'. Yet in practice we often forget this and use a different criterion. We judge a gift by its size, that is, by its cost. But this can be so unfair. Christ did not fall for it. He said that the poor widow who gave exactly one penny gave more than anyone else. We often judge our own contribution and that of others by standards other than those of the Gospel.

First Reading (1 Kings 17:10-16).

In this reading we meet a pagan widow who in the middle of a famine shares the last other food with a hungry man. In doing so she learns a great lesson. Namely, that it is in giving that we receive.

Second Reading (Hebrews 9:24-28).

Through his death Christ has taken our sins upon himself and he has opened for us the door of salvation.

Gospel { Mark 12:38-44).

(Shorter form recommended). The offering of the widow. In the eyes of others her offering was the least. But in the eyes of Christ it was the greatest.

Prayer Of The Faithful

Let us pray that we may learn the lesson of today's Gospel — that it is not the size of our offering that matters in God's eyes, but the cost of it and the spirit in which we give it.

R: Lord, graciously hear us.

For the leaders of the Church: that they may teach and practice the values of Christ and not those of the world. Lord, hear us.

R: Lord, graciously hear us.



Liturgy Cycle B

For all those who have charge over others: that they may reward people not according to results but according to the effort made and the spirit shown. Lord, hear us.

R: Lord, graciously hear us.

For all those who are involved in menial jobs in which they seldom receive recognition: that they may realise that what they contribute is seen by the Lord. Lord, hear us.

R: Lord, graciously hear us.

That we may not work to win human praise and human rewards; that we may strive rather to please the Lord only. Lord, hear us.

R: Lord, graciously hear us.

Communion Reflection

We give but little
when we give of our goods.
It is only when we give of ourselves
that we truly give.

There are people who have a lot
but who give little.

And the little that they give
is given to win praise from others.
This makes their gift worthless.

But there are people who have little and who give it all.
These are the really great.
Through the hands of such people
God cares for his people, and through their eyes
he smiles on the world.

We may feel that we have not much to give.
Let this not deter us.
We can give little things.
and give them with great love.

Then we will be imitating the poor widow,
who was able to look beyond her own need,
because she placed all her trust in God.