

THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

November 7, 2021

The Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

1 Kings 17:10–16 † Hebrews 9:24–28 † Mark 12:41–44



Reflection by: Sister Patricia Wormann, OP

In our scriptures this Sunday we meet two women, both poor, widowed and on the margins of society. In the Book of Kings, Elijah the prophet asks the woman to bring him a cupful of water and adds “a bit of bread.” He asks this in a place where famine is widespread, and rainfall is zero. The woman’s response is obvious in that she and her son are near death and starving. Elijah tells her “Be not afraid” and assures her that God will provide. She trusts his word brings him what he asks, and miraculously God does provide!

In our gospel, Mark tells us that Jesus calls his disciples to him and asks them to note what’s happening. There are a lot of rich people giving what seems like a lot of money into the treasury. But Jesus points out the poor widow. Maybe he saw in her eyes the sadness and grief she carried. It was evident that she was poor and uncared for. The widow deposits two small coins. Not very much in monetary value, but while the others give out of their surplus, she gives everything. Wow!

The Letter to the Hebrews reminds us that Jesus gave his everything for us. What about us? What do we hold back? How and what do we give? Is it out of our surplus, whether that be money, time, talents, or other requests? Do we have the faith, generosity, and trust of these two women? As followers of Jesus, can we, will we, give our everything as well? Let us pray for each other that that kind of generosity will be the hallmark of our lives.