

She has put in more than all the others



Mark 12:38-44

In his teaching Jesus said, 'Beware of the scribes who like to walk about in long robes, to be greeted obsequiously in the market squares, to take the front seats in the synagogues and the places of honour at banquets; these are the men who swallow the property of widows, while making a show of lengthy prayers. The more severe will be the sentence they receive.'

He sat down opposite the treasury and watched the people putting money into the treasury, and many of the rich put in a great deal. A poor widow came and put in two small coins, the equivalent of a penny. Then he called his disciples and said to them, 'I tell you solemnly, this poor widow has put more in than all who have contributed to the treasury; for they have all put in money they had over, but she from the little she had has put in everything she possessed, all she had to live on.'



Reflection

Mark keeps these two incidents close together.

Jesus first talks about a religion that is about appearances and honour. He speaks against a religious practice that is about the outward show, not the inner reality. Then he points to an example of true faith, this poor widow, the one who trusts enough to give back all she had to live on.



Questions to ponder

- Are there things in my life that I hold back from God and am afraid to place in His hands?
- Do we sometimes find our security in what we can touch and hold on to, rather than in the loving care that God has promised He will show us always?



Reflection

When we know we are loved and held by our Father it is a bit easier to let go and to trust in the path He is asking us to walk.

The widow teaches us another important lesson.

Her gift wasn't much at all in human thinking.

What difference could her two small coins ever make?

But her gift was wonderful in God's eyes.

It might be easy to think we can't make a difference, but God sees and values every time we try, in our own small way, to do what He asks of us.



Concluding prayer

Jesus, when we cling on to what is safe and familiar, when we are afraid of letting go and trusting you, touch our hearts and help us to remember that you will never let us down.

We are safe in your hands.

Amen.

