

THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

November 10, 2024

Gospel: (Mark 12:38-44)

Taking a seat opposite the treasury, Jesus observed the crowd putting money into the collection box. Many of the wealthy put in sizable amounts; but one poor widow came and put in two small copper coins worth about a cent. He called his disciples over and told them: *"I want you to observe that this poor widow contributed more than all the others who donated to the treasury. They gave from their surplus wealth, but she gave from her want, all that she had to live on."*

Reflection:

The widow is described as poor; she contributes "all she had." Surprisingly, the "large sums" given by the "rich people" pale in comparison to the widow's far greater gift of "two small coins." She gives her all, her whole livelihood, "from her want." It is not the size of the gift which measures its value but the depth of the self-gift from which it comes. This is the kind of giving of which Jesus takes note. The widow in the gospel is the model for the radical demand of discipleship: she gives her all. Discipleship doesn't mean that we necessarily do big and heroic things. It does mean that we do everything and meet whatever challenges come our way with hearts set right—we give of ourselves for the good of others. (Living Liturgy, p.246)

Vincenian Meditation:

In the movie *Monsieur Vincent*, there is a scene where Queen Anne of Austria, is talking to Vincent towards the end of his life. She is listing some of his great achievements. He listens pensively and then mutters: "I have done nothing." She continues to catalogue the works he has initiated and again Vincent mutters: "I have done nothing." The Queen becomes a little impatient with him and says: "Monsieur Vincent, if you say you have done nothing, what must we do if we are to save our souls?" Monsieur Vincent slowly raises his head and with his piercing black eyes looks at the Queen and utters one word:

"More." (McCullen, *Deep Down Things*, p.467)

Discussion: (*Share your thoughts on the readings after a moment of silence*)

What "More" can we do?

Closing Prayer

Jesus, our guide,

-give us the generosity to give "from our want."

Jesus, our life,

-give us loving hearts.

Jesus, our light,

-give us the grace to do "More." Amen

