



BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

November 7, 2021

Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Lectionary: 155

Gospel Mk 12:38-44 or 12:41-44

In the course of his teaching Jesus said to the crowds, "Beware of the scribes, who like to go around in long robes and accept greetings in the marketplaces, seats of honor in synagogues, and places of honor at banquets. They devour the houses of widows and, as a pretext recite lengthy prayers. They will receive a very severe condemnation." He sat down opposite the treasury and observed how the crowd put money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. A poor widow also came and put in two small coins worth a few cents. Calling his disciples to himself, he said to them, "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."

Spiritual Reflection:

Throughout the Gospels, Jesus uses money as a tool to reveal our true priorities. If you think about it, our bank statement tells the truth about what's really important to us. Jesus hammers this home in the Sermon on the Mount when He tells us: "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6:19–21). His point is that if we truly believe life is eternal, we won't invest all of our time and finances into possessions and entertainments that will simply perish. Instead, we will pour our energy and resources into behaviors and actions that will resonate throughout eternity. To Jesus, money almost operates as a rival god who challenges our allegiance (Matthew 6:24). The truth is that the god money invites us to worship is really ourselves as we indulge in our own comfort and pleasure. – Jesus Film Project Blog

Spiritual Questions:

1. What would a person learn about you through how you spend your money?
2. Why do you think you treat money the way that you do?
3. Is money and God in a competition in your life?
4. Do you see stewardship as a form of evangelization?
5. Did you notice that Jesus was paying attention to what the everyone was giving?