

A WEEKLY WORD

November 10th , 2024

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READINGS: 1 Kings 17:8-16 and Psalm 146; Hebrews 9:24-28;
Mark 12:38-44

*A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. Then he called his disciples and said to them, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. For all of them have contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on."
Mark 12.42-44*

The readings this week focus a lot on the widow and those in need.

The “Widow’s Mite” story in Mark is a popular scripture when clergy want to send a message on tithing. But I want to focus not on what we give but on what we have received.

In the western world we have been truly blessed with a lot. I know you will say that there are many who are doing without, and that is true. Doing without is not part of God’s plan. God has provided enough of everything for everyone to have what they need. The issue is with those who have in abundance.

How do we level the playing field? You may say that you are just living from paycheck to paycheck. Give thanks for that paycheck! If there is a little left over, give thanks and look around you to see if there is a little blessing you can pass on.

The point I am trying to make is while it is a privilege to give a tithe to your local congregation, or be generous to the local food bank, blessings are what we can pass on while not costing us a lot.

I remember reading awhile ago about keeping a blessing jar. Every day, write down how you were blessed that day and add it to the jar. At the end of the month or year, open the jar and you will be surprised in what you read. I challenge you to do that and add another jar where you write what you did that day to bless another. An encouraging word or a cup of coffee with a friend is a blessing that is priceless.

Years ago I was challenged during my prayer time to send a note of encouragement to someone every day during Lent. I did that and I was blessed so much in the sending. I heard back from only a few, but the responses I got were a huge blessing to me.

Advent is a season to “prepare ye the way of the Lord”. I think I will give that blessing jar(s) a try!

The jar of meal was not emptied, neither did the jug of oil fail, according to the word of the LORD that he spoke by Elijah. 1 Kings 17.16