

Seedling Group Questions for the week of November 11 – Proper 27B/Lectionary 32

The sermon for November 11 can be found at www.saidanotherway.org

Questions for opening up

Have you ever gotten much more use out of something than you ever thought you would? Share what that was like.

In your wallet, purse, or pocket, what is your most priceless possession? What makes it so special?

Read 1 Kings 17:8-16

Looking at this story in its entirety, how many different risks were taken by different people along the way? What might they suggest about the life of faith? How often do you think about faith in terms of risk-taking?

Why do you think the widow responded the way she did to Elijah's request in verses 13-14? Was she, as a woman, in no position to argue? Did she display faith? Despondent already, did she have nothing to lose? If you were the widow, how would you respond?

Read Mark 12:38-44

What does Jesus criticize about the religious leaders of his day? What qualities about religious leaders today could use warning?

How do people use religion to make themselves look (or feel) good? Do people use works of charity the same way? Explain.

What is your impression of the widow—is she a hero or a victim, or both? Explain.

Putting things together

How is the example about the widow's offering become more than just a lesson about how to give financially? How have you typically thought of this story?

Pastor Phillip says, "We never know how much we really have until our whole life is in service to the Lord. We never know the true richness of our lives until we start to give ourselves away." How is this true for Jesus' life? How is it true for yours?

Making it personal

When have you experienced sacrificial giving in some way, either as a donor, a recipient, or an observer of such?

What "small" thing of yours could you turn into something great or long-lasting by "putting it all in" in service to Christ's kingdom?

1 Kings 17:8-16

⁸The word of the Lord came to [Elijah,] saying, ⁹“Go now to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and live there; for I have commanded a widow there to feed you.” ¹⁰So he set out and went to Zarephath. When he came to the gate of the town, a widow was there gathering sticks; he called to her and said, “Bring me a little water in a vessel, so that I may drink.” ¹¹As she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, “Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand.” ¹²But she said, “As the Lord your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of meal in a jar, and a little oil in a jug; I am now gathering a couple of sticks, so that I may go home and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it, and die.” ¹³Elijah said to her, “Do not be afraid; go and do as you have said; but first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterwards make something for yourself and your son. ¹⁴For thus says the Lord the God of Israel: The jar of meal will not be emptied and the jug of oil will not fail until the day that the Lord sends rain on the earth.” ¹⁵She went and did as Elijah said, so that she as well as he and her household ate for many days. ¹⁶The 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.

Mark 12:38-44

³⁸As [Jesus] taught, he said, “Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, ³⁹and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets! ⁴⁰They devour widows’ houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation.”

⁴¹He sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. ⁴²A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. ⁴³Then 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. ⁴⁴For 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.”