

## REFLECTION FOR 32<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY YEAR B

### 1 Kings 17:10-16; Hebrews 9:24-28; Mark 12:38-44

We live in a very image conscious society. Our status, respect, our body appearance in public and how we are seen, is more important than who we really are.

The Scribes and Pharisees were presented in today's Gospel reading as very image conscious. It was more important for them to be seen and thought of as good and holy than being really so. That is why they liked to walk about in long robes, they took front seats in the synagogues and places of honour at banquets.

The paradox of our time is that we spend more, but we have less. We buy more, but we enjoy it less. More medicine but less wellness. We have multiplied our possessions but reduced our values. We have beautiful houses but more broken homes and shallow relationships.

Today's readings invite us to surrender our lives to God with a humble and generous heart by serving others lovingly and sacrificially.

It is **the self-giving** in the gift, **the heart** in the sacrifice behind it, and **the love** involved in it, which God counts.

The poor widows in both the first reading and the Gospel, give away all that they possess for the glory of God. The sacrificial self-giving of the widows reflects God's love in giving His only Son for us, and Jesus gave his life to us as a ransom. So, what are you ready to give?

The outstanding charity act of the two widows could only be possible on the strength of the power of love and faith in God. Wherever you find love, faith is next. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things. Wherever you find love, faith is next.

One of the lies some people believe is that you need to have enough before you can give. There is also resident in the lives of many people, the fear of becoming poor by giving. Ironically, the poorest people are those who only have money and nothing else.

It is not money, or property, or university degrees, or professional status, or health that really matter, these can all disappear without warning. What really matters is that people take care of each other.

The offering God wants from us is not our material possessions, but our whole hearts and lives.

What is hardest to give is ourselves in love because that gift costs us more than reaching for our purses.

**We need to pour out our "whole life."** Let us, like the poor widows, find the courage to share. Let us not hold back our love, our selflessness, our sacrifice, our patience, our forgiveness, our time, and our compassion but pour out our whole heart, our whole being, our "whole life" into the Hands of God and for our brothers and sisters in need.

If you want your life to increase, give it away. If you want your faith to increase, share it.  
If you want joy in your life, make others happy.

Be rest assured of these words of St. Paul as you make a decision today to reactivate your disposition to give: ***“God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work” (2 Cor. 9:8)***

Fr Patrick