



Daily Reflections

June 10, 2017

Scripture

Mark 12: 38-44

In the course of his teaching Jesus said,
"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."

Our Scripture Reflection

In today's Gospel passage, we see that Jesus chastised the religious lawyers known as "scribes." Why? They were very highly respected legal scholars who

issued legal opinions on everything from marriages to property purchases. Jesus took them to task because of their hypocrisy and lack of humility. He pointed to the humble action of a poor widow at the Temple treasury to illustrate truly sincere and humble behavior.

Food for your Journey

David H.C. Read suggests that today's new-style hypocrites are not the smug Pharisees in Jesus' story, but the publicans outside the church who pray, "God, I may not be the best person in the world, but at least I am better than all those religious hypocrites in the Church," and those who respond to the Sermon on the Mount with "That's the kind of life I lead; so I don't need any of the proffered resources of religion." What Read says is expressed in the chapter title: "I live a pretty decent life: What more do I need?" He quotes the shortest prayer he has heard recently: "Almighty and everlasting God ... Help!" (140).

_David H. C. Read, Overheard (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1969), 132-41.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, Meek and humble of heart, make my heart like Your heart. Amen.