



# Daily Reflections

## November 11, 2018

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### Scripture

#### **Mark 12: 38-44**

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."

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## **Our Scripture Reflection**

In today's Gospel reading Jesus contrasts the attitudes of two quite different people in their practice of religion. On one hand there is the arrogant, self-righteous Pharisee who prances around in his widow-funded ornate robe. He loves to be glorified by the common folk who grovel in his presence. Then there's the poor widow. Barely noticed by anyone she manages to quietly place her tithe in the large, bell-looking device used to deposit coins in the outer court of the Temple. Unlike the Pharisee, that's as far as she is allowed to enter. Unlike the attention-seeking religious leader, the poor widow is humble, faithful and sincere in the way she serves the Lord. She not only gets the Lord's attention, she always earns His admiration and respect.

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## **Food for your Journey**

Dr. W. Frank Harrington tells in a speech a John Maxwell story about the making of parachutes during the Second World War. These parachutes were packed by hand in a tedious, painstaking, repetitive, boring process. The workers crouched over sewing machines and stitched for eight hours every day. The endless line of fabric was the same color. Then they folded, packed and stacked the parachutes. All that was left was for someone to pull the rip cord.

How did they stand it? They stood it because every morning before they began their work, they gathered as a group. One of the managers reminded them that each parachute would save someone's life. They were then asked to think, as they sewed and packed, how they would feel if the parachute was strapped to the back of their son, their father, their brother.

These laborers worked sacrificially, unerringly, uncomplainingly, because someone connected what they were doing to a larger picture, to a larger mission that involved the saving of lives.

-- John C. Maxwell,

Developing the Leader Within You

(Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1995), 28.

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## **A Prayer from the Heart**

Dear Jesus, As Psalm 51 says so beautifully, You love a humble and contrite heart. Help me, Lord, to live my faith in You with love and sincerity. May my first desire always be to grow closer to You and to serve You with a grateful heart. Amen