



‘Worship at home’

Sunday November 10th 2024

As we worship, we know God’s generous and abundant love and once again are challenged about how we care for others. You might bring with you **two coins** from your purse or wallet, as an aid to prayer.

Opening

We are called to worship

We are called to love

We are called to give

We are called to love

We are called to stand up for others

We are called to love

Let us do so with all of who we are

Amen



If we follow Jesus’ example, we are called to love, generously and abundantly. We are called to love sacrificially, putting the needs of others first. We hear inspirational stories of those who have been empowered to

give more than they ever felt they could; of money, time and resources being stretched miraculously in order to show love and compassion and grace to those in need. These are stories of God’s blessings of love, and of the Spirit equipping and empowering in ways we might never have imagined.

However, sometimes we feel we have nothing left to give. Our pot is empty, and our river dry. We feel wrung out, overwhelmed with the needs we see around us or the demands being placed on us.

Have you ever been asked to give more than you felt you could?

What enabled you to do so?

**GIVE IT
ALL
YOU GOT**

Mark 12:38 - 44

As he taught, Jesus said, “Watch out for the teachers of the law. They like to walk around in flowing robes and be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, and have the most important seats in the synagogues and the places of honour at banquets. They devour widows’ houses and for a show make lengthy prayers. These men will be punished most severely.”

Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings

were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a few cents.

Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything — all she had to live on.”

New International Version



Jesus warns against leaders who seek attention and honour. They give the appearance of being righteous, yet take advantage of others. He then praises the destitute widow who gives her only coins to pay the temple taxes. Rather than

keeping one for herself, she gave “everything – all she had to live on”. In Greek the words mean literally “her whole life”.

Hold your coins in your hand while you reflect on your own giving - of your money, your time, and your skills and gifts.



What motivates your giving?

**When you give generously,
are you privileged to give out of your abundance,
and not miss what you give?**

**Or do you need to make sacrifices in order to give,
from a position of scarcity?**

This passage reminds us that God takes the little that we have and who we are, and uses us for God's purposes and glory. We are also reminded that discipleship can be costly, and following Jesus might demand our whole life. In our call to love, we might need to give up that which is important for us.



However, this passage may also provide a critique on those whose concern is for themselves and giving the right appearance, while perpetuating systems and processes that exploit others.

**There is a difference between *giving* everything
and having everything *taken away*.**

Could it be that this widow is an example of one whose house has been “devoured” by the expectation of paying one's tithe to the temple? Has she given her all because an unjust system has demanded she do so, in order that the religious leaders can wear flowing robes and hold the most important places of honour?

**When have you found yourself caught up
in practices and systems that exploit others,
even unknowingly?**

Who are the poor and powerless amongst us?

**How can we give in ways that help them
rather than placing undue demands on them?**



We remember that following the ways of Jesus Christ calls us to give of ourselves in love, generously and abundantly, and in ways that bring about justice and equity for all.

Prayer of confession

Jesus, we are eagerly waiting for you,
come quickly to our aid.

Forgive us when we are more concerned with
appearance than practice;
quantity than quality;



being blessed than being a blessing.
Forgive us when we are unaware of
how our actions affect others.
Forgive us for the times that we are addicted
to privilege and motivated by praise.
Forgive us, correct us, transform us,
and lead us in your way. Amen.

Words of affirmation

Friends, God calls us to do better.
With God's help, and the loving support of each other,
we can demonstrate a glimpse of the change
that we hope to actualize in our homes,
community, country, and world. *Seasons of the Spirit™ • Pentecost 2 2018*
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Closing: A Franciscan Benediction

May God bless you with discomfort at
easy answers, half-truths, superficial relationships,
so that you may live deep within your heart.
May God bless you with anger at
injustice, oppression and exploitation,
so that you will work for justice, equity and peace.
May God bless you with tears to shed
for those who suffer from pain,
rejection, starvation and war,
so that you will reach out your hand to comfort them,
and change their pain to joy.
And may God bless you with the foolishness
to think that you can make a difference in the world,
so that you will do the things which others tell you
cannot be done. Amen.

You might find a small jar or bowl to place your
coins in. As you collect small change over the
coming weeks, set it aside. Once the jar or
bowl is full, give the money to help someone in
need. You might put extra in your church offering, donate it to a
charity, or 'pay it forward' and buy for a coffee for a stranger. 4

