

Mark 12:38-44

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

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

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church

THANKS BE TO GOD

Do not depend on the hope of results. You may have to face the fact that your work will be apparently worthless and even achieve no result at all, if not perhaps results opposite to what you expect. As you get used to this idea, you start more and more to concentrate not on the results, but on the value, the rightness, the truth of the work itself.

Thomas Merton

Let me begin this reflection on the widow who “gave everything she had” by reminding us all that there is still time to increase your estimate of giving for 2019.

Isn't this a fascinating text?

Our widow is being completely irrational—as you and I, in our practicality and prudence, would assess her decision here to give all she had to the treasury. How is she supposed to survive now? Where is her next meal coming from? She's being completely irrational.

And Jesus is almost beside himself with praise for her.

Irrational? Jesus would probably call her fearless.

She comes into view suddenly and disappears just as suddenly, like a comet or a shooting star. Jesus is lucky enough to be looking in the right direction when she comes in. A streak of fearlessness shooting through the temple and back out again.

She blesses him. She graces him. She delights him. And she has no idea.

That's about as holy as any act can be. To give everything you have and receive zero recognition.

There is zero self-possession here—she's kind of lost to herself. Completely un-self-possessed. This is the state of the heart, the interior condition that the Gospel is inviting us to experience.

Radical trust in God. “Don't let the left hand know what the right hand is doing,” Jesus says. “If you want to find yourself you need to lose yourself.” “Don't worry about what you will eat or what you will wear.” “Put your hand to the plow and don't look back.”

This widow has found her way to that place of interior emptiness which is fullness... or maybe we describe it as disappearing into God... or maybe we call it something like the happiness of nothingness.

Kansans who are not fans of Ann Coulter, the FOX news personality, were amused when she tweeted this week that Kansas was “dead to her” for electing some democrats to office.

But here's another way to talk about what the widow and the Gospel life are offering us... it's about being “dead to yourself” and discovering how alive with the life of God this makes you.

Those scribes in the text today are utterly lost, as Jesus sees it. Utterly blind. They are the walking dead, asleep at the wheel. It is not well with their souls. Jesus says for them there will be a reckoning, a “condemnation” as he puts it.

Later, though, he will include them (and all of us) in his prayer from the cross, “Father forgive them, they don't know what they are doing.”

And with that pardon, Jesus offers himself, penniless, but, like the widow, so interiorly rich.

A streaking comet of pure light---still streaking today through the temple of this world and into the temples of our hearts.

And with every glimpse of him, we can only be beside ourselves with praise.

SHAPED BY GOD'S WORD-GRACED AT CHRIST'S TABLE

NORTH OAK CHRISTIAN CHURCH-DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

November 11, 2018

In Jesus' Name, Greetings!

Music for Gathering Elzene Gourley

Blessed are those who have confessed their erring ways

WHO HAVE ASKED FOR FORGIVENESS

For the Beloved walks with them

WITH MERCY AND COMPASSION THEY ARE HELD IN LOVE'S HEART

The Beloved is a stronghold, the Comforter, the refuge of our souls

LET US COME TO THE RADIANT ONE WITH THANKSGIVING

Lighting of the Candles

"In the dawning of this day, let us know fresh shinings in our souls"

Celtic prayer

721 My Country 'Tis of Thee

We Welcome One Another as Christ

304 Into My Heart 2X

The Morning Prayer and Choral Response

Silence

"The seed is in the ground. Now may we rest in hope while darkness does its work."

Wendell Berry

Children's Circle

All children thru 5th grade are welcome to come forward. A small outreach offering will be collected for our money jar. Following this time of sharing and prayer, children may attend their very own "Worship and Wonder" time together in our classroom annex. Child care is offered for infants and toddlers but they are also welcome in the sanctuary.

Prayer for Illumination

Love Creating, Grace Abounding, Peace Abiding

PREPARE OUR HEARTS TO RECEIVE YOUR WORD, AMEN

THE GOSPEL Mark 12: 38-44

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end, amen amen.

The Meditation "The Happiness of Nothingness" Rev. Rob Carr

We your servants give You humble thanks Almighty God, for all Your gifts and graces to us this day. For the splendor of the whole creation, and the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life and the mystery of love. Blessed are you Gracious Counselor. Guide us in all that we do. Amen.

Silent and spoken personal prayers of thanksgiving confession, intercession

In honor of all who serve: "Song for the Unsung Hero" by Joseph M Martin

The Offering

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow, Praise God all creatures here below

Praise God above ye heavenly host, Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

We are Disciples of Christ, a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world.
As part of the one body of Christ, we welcome all to the Lord's Table as God has welcomed us.

426 The Voice of Jesus Call His People

Welcome to the Table

Our little lives, our big problems, these we place upon your altar

THE EVILS OF THE WORLD SCATTER THE FOCUS OF OUR HIGH RESOLVES

We do not know how to do what we know to do

WE DO NOT KNOW HOW TO BE WHAT WE KNOW TO BE

Pour out upon us whatever our spirits need of shock, of release

THAT WE MAY FIND STRENGTH FOR THESE DAYS

In confidence we rest in your sustaining grace which makes possible

triumph in defeat, gain in loss, love in hate

OUR LITTLE LIVES, OUR BIG PROBLEMS, THESE WE PLACE UPON YOUR ALTAR

The Words of Institution

The Communion Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever, amen.

Following the Lord's Prayer, please come forward by rows to receive the loaf and the cup.

The cup is non-alcoholic by choice of the congregation

Gluten free crackers are available on the table for those who prefer this option

Children also celebrate communion weekly as part of "Worship and Wonder"

612 O Jesus I Have Promised vss 1 and 4

Grant, O God, that we may find you and be found by you

THAT WE MAY WALK TOGETHER IN YOUR LOVE. AMEN

TO OUR GUESTS----WELCOME!

SHAPED BY GOD'S WORD AND GRACED AT CHRIST'S TABLE

WE WALK HUMBLLY, LOVE DEEPLY, LIVE SIMPLY, AND SERVE JOYFULLY

We are delighted to include you today. Your presence and participation is a gift to us all. We hope you experience among us the warm spirit of our family of faith and the gracious touch of Christ upon your life. Refreshments and welcoming conversation are available before and after worship in the Community Room just down the hall. More information about NOCC and the Disciples of Christ is available via Facebook and these websites

www.nocckc.org www.kcdisciples.org www.disciples.org

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

THIS WEEK

5PM Northland Youth
5PM Prayers for Healing and Wholeness
Monday 6PM Troop 900
Tuesday 945AM Men's Bible Group
Tuesday 1230PM Women's Bible Group
Tuesday 6PM Pack 900
Wednesday 1PM Vital Conversation
Wednesday 7PM Music Ministry
Thursday 6PM Girl Scouts
Friday 12PM STRUM at Westport Presbyterian
Saturday 10AM Music Ministry at Jeff Nunn's house

UPCOMING

Next Sunday NOCC Community Thanksgiving Pot Luck Following Worship
Sunday December 2 Congregational Meeting Following Worship
Sunday December 9 5PM Talent Show

KEVIN KELLEY NEEDS STUDENTS

Rob has been training a cohort of people this year to present workshops on Centering Prayer. Our former beloved seminary intern Kevin Kelly is in the cohort. After several training experiences and lots of reading, Kevin is ready for his final test. He needs to do a three hour presentation on centering prayer to a group of willing folks while Rob observes. Would you be willing to be part of his "test audience?" Saturday February 9 2019 9AM to noon at NOCC. Our centering prayer "veterans" are welcome to attend plus people who have decided it's time to learn what centering prayer is all about. Even if you are not interested in centering prayer but want to be helpful to Kevin----please come. Contact Rob with your interest. Child care available if needed.

SOWING A SEED-GROWING OUR VISION 2016-2018

Our campaign prayer: We want what you want God. Open each heart and mind to Christ, our Light. Guide us together by your Holy Spirit, to trust in your will, amen.