

SMALL PRAYER GROUPS
Prayer Gathering for November 7

SIGN OF THE CROSS +

OPENING PRAYER

Generous and loving God

Everything we have is from you – no exceptions exist.

You gave us a world with more than enough blessings and resources for us all.

**Help us to see what is in our closet that, in truth, belongs on someone else's back...
and what is our wallet that belongs in the hand of another.**

We ask this in the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ, our Lord. AMEN.

READING

MOMENT FOR SILENCE

GOSPEL PASSAGE

SHARING QUESTIONS

"She left to get [his water], and he called out after her, 'Please bring along a bit of bread.'"

Have you ever done something kind for someone and then gotten asked to give more? Or to give to someone right after you *just* gave to someone else? How do you handle that?

Widow: "When we have eaten [this meagre last meal], we shall die."

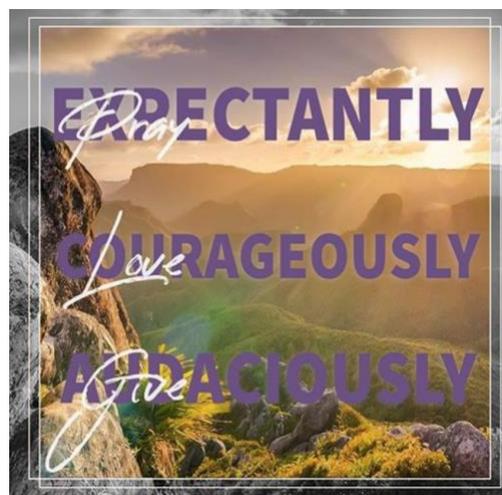
Elijah: "Do not be afraid. Go and do [that]. But first make me a little cake and bring it to me."

Giving a stranger the food you need for yourself takes incredible courage and generosity. What experience from your life does this remind you of? What have you learned from it?

POSTED RECENTLY

Things like radical generosity and audacious faith are not produced when we focus on them, but when we focus on the gospel.

J. D. Greear



DISCUSSION

"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.'"

This widow impressed Jesus greatly. It seems he is not impressed by the size of the gift as much as by the personal cost to the giver. When have you been asked to give at a level that made you nervous? How did you respond? How did it turn out?

LITANY OF AUDACIOUS GIVING

When my logic tells me this is imprudent and brash...

Give me courage of the widow to give my best, my all...

When my judgement tells me they got themselves into this mess...

Give me courage of the widow to give my best, my all...

When my anger tells me that they should go and get a job...

Give me courage of the widow to give my best, my all...

When my fear speaks up and says – if this is now, then what is *next*?

Give me courage of the widow to give my best, my all...

When my love of comfort tells me that their gain will be my loss...

Give me courage of the widow to give my best, my all...

When my shrewdness smiles and tells me I need to save this for my grandkids...

Give me courage of the widow to give my best, my all...

When my pride speaks up and says: “I worked for this and it is mine”...

Give me courage of the widow to give my best, my all...

When my mind gets rather fuzzy and I forget accounts I own...

Give me courage of the widow to give my best, my all...

When the Gospel sounds too quant to *really* guide my life each day...

Give me courage of the widow to give my best, my all...

OUR FATHER

[OPTIONAL] PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION (St. Alphonsus Ligouri)

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament.

I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace You as if You were already here, and unite myself wholly to You.

Never permit me to be separated from You. AMEN.

CLOSING PRAYER

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

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

SIGN OF THE CROSS +

READING 1

A reading from the first book of Kings

In those days, Elijah the prophet went to Zarephath.
As he arrived at the entrance of the city,
a widow was gathering sticks there; he called out to her,
"Please bring me a small cupful of water to drink."

She left to get it, and he called out after her,
"Please bring along a bit of bread."

She answered,
*"As the LORD, your God, lives, I have nothing baked;
there is only a handful of flour in my jar
and a little oil in my jug.
Just now I was collecting a couple of sticks,
to go in and prepare something for myself and my son;
when we have eaten it, we shall die."*

Elijah said to her, *"Do not be afraid.
Go and do as you propose.
But first make me a little cake and bring it to me.
Then you can prepare something for yourself and your son.
For the LORD, the God of Israel, says,
'The jar of flour shall not go empty,
nor the jug of oil run dry,
until the day when the LORD
sends rain upon the earth.'"*

She left and did as Elijah had said.

She was able to eat for a year, and he and her son as well;
the jar of flour did not go empty, nor the jug of oil run dry,
as the LORD had foretold through Elijah.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

READING 2

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark

Jesus 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."*

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to You, Lord, Jesus Christ