

(Food for thought: Gospel: Mark 12: 38-44)

“Being Noticed”



Today's readings contrast two very different groups of people – the scribes who were very prominent in religious life during Jesus' time; and the silent and barely-noticed widows.

The Lord here teaches against the crime of having no particular interest in the welfare of the individual, but a great deal of interest in giving for one's own gain. The rich would not miss what they gave, but the widow had given away her entire living. The sad part of today's account is that both the scribes and the widow could have had eternal life had they simply put their money back into their pockets and embraced the Redeemer

who was sitting a few steps away observing.

The real tragedy of life is always that Jesus is so near with the gift of life, but people seek to buy or to work their way into heaven.

We hear this message again today and are reminded how God came to our need in the past. He continues to show concern for our present hungers and we who are nurtured and fed by our God are called to turn our attention to those who, like the widows in today's scriptures, attract Jesus' notice. We are to do as he did: we "observe" and tend to those who need our attention, who are not the notables of our world and who do not have the prestige and status that normally attracts the world's eye and favor.

True Christianity gives – but it gives from the principal of grace; lovingly, not legally; freely, not through coercion; not to gain favor but to impart it, having received so much ourselves from the Lord. Jesus gave willingly, lovingly, and generously. Dare we do less?



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