

Surplus vs. Substance

The starving widow of Zarephath
gave to the prophet Elijah
from her substance,
not her surplus,
and she lived.

The temple offering
of the widow's mite.
was from her substance,
not her surplus,
and she was praised.

When the fishermen from Galilee
left their nets and boats
to follow Jesus,
they gave up their substance,
not their surplus,
and they became apostles.

The scraps that fell to Lazarus
from the table of Dives
were from the latter's surplus,
not his substance,
and he ended up in torment.

At the Yankee Stadium
Pope Paul VI exhorted America
to alleviate the misery of millions
by sharing from our substance,
and not merely our surplus.
Have we risen to the challenge?

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