

November 2021  
Ordinary Time  
Proper 27



# The Diocesan Sunday School Teacher



## Welcome

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Greetings My Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

The theme for this week is: God Transforms Scarcity Into Enough

In the first lesson, we meet Elijah and the widow from Zarephat. She had to trust the prophet's promise that God would transform the little food that she had into enough to feed not only her family, but also a stranger, for the duration of a period of drought.

In the epistle, we are told that Jesus offered a single sacrifice of himself which was enough to purify the sins of all humanity, for all time.

While in the gospel reading, a widow's offering of two small coins to assist the poor of her community was commended as being greater than what was offered by many others who were richer. She trusted that God would provide enough for her, and so she gave her last two coins so that someone else could receive.

In all these examples in today's readings, God took what we would consider a small amount and transform it into what was enough to show us God's provision of our needs, and especially our need of salvation.

Do we have the courage to trust that God can transform our faith, gifts, talents and resources into enough so that we can do his mission? I pray that we too may place ourselves in the hands of the living God, and be transformed.

Blessings,  
The Sunday School Team



## Collect & Readings

### Memory Verses:

Mark 12:43-44

Then Jesus 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."

### The Collect

O God, whose blessed Son came into the world that he might destroy the works of the devil and make us children of God and heirs of eternal life: Grant that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves as He is pure; that, when He comes again with power and great glory, we may be made like Him in His eternal and glorious kingdom; where He lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

1 Kings 17:8-16  
Psalm 146  
Hebrews 9:24-28  
Mark 12:38-44

## The First Lesson (1 Kings 17:8-16)

The word of the Lord came to Elijah, saying, “Go now to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and live there; for I have commanded a widow there to feed you.” So he set out and went to Zarephath. When he came to the gate of the town, a widow was there gathering sticks; he called to her and said, “Bring me a little water in a vessel, so that I may drink.” As she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, “Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand.” But she said, “As the Lord your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of meal in a jar, and a little oil in a jug; I am now gathering a couple of sticks, so that I may go home and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it, and die.” Elijah said to her, “Do not be afraid; go and do as you have said; but first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterwards make something for yourself and your son. For thus says the Lord the God of Israel: The jar of meal will not be emptied and the jug of oil will not fail until the day that the Lord sends rain on the earth.” She went and did as Elijah said, so that she as well as he and her household ate for many days. The jar of meal was not emptied, neither did the jug of oil fail, according to the word of the Lord that he spoke by Elijah.

Elijah sought refuge with a poor widow of Zarephath. She and her family were on the brink of starvation. Nevertheless, she trusted in the word of the prophet, that if she gave sacrificially, out of her scarcity, God would transform it into abundance.

### QUESTIONS:

God instructed Elijah to go to Zarephath where a widow would look after him. How else does God empower others to care for persons in need?

If you had only one meal left, would you give it to someone in need?

What things can you give away and watch the abundance come right back to you?

### BIBLE STUDY: 1 Kings 17:8-16

Elijah had prophesied that there would be a drought in Israel. God provided for Elijah until the water in the rivers of Israel dried up. In today’s reading God instructed Elijah to go to non-Jewish territory—Zarephath in Sidon. God told Elijah that a woman there would care for him.

Elijah found the woman and asked for water and bread. But the woman was so poor, that she only had enough for one meal, and then she and her family would starve to death.

Elijah instructed the woman to trust him, trust God, that if she gave out of her scarcity, God would provide for their needs.

### ACTIVITY:

Sing together the song:

*Love is something that you  
give it away, you give away,  
and you give it away.*

*Love is something that you  
give it away and it comes  
right back to you.*

*It’s just like a magic penny  
you put it in your pocket  
and you don’t have any.*

*But if you spend it or give it  
away it comes right back to  
you.*

## Psalm 146



1 Hallelujah! Praise the Lord, O my soul! \* I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

2 Put not your trust in rulers, nor in any child of earth, \* for there is no help in them.

3 When they breathe their last, they return to earth, \* and in that day their thoughts perish.

4 Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help! \* whose hope is in the Lord their God;

5 Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; \* who keeps his promise for ever;

6 Who gives justice to those who are oppressed, \* and food to those who hunger.

7 The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind; \* the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;

8 The Lord loves the righteous; the Lord cares for the stranger; \* he sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.

9 The Lord shall reign for ever, \* your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!

The psalmist expresses joy that he has placed his trust in God and not earthly rulers. The powerful in the world have limited power. They do not have the oppressed, poor, strangers and the imprisoned as their priority—but God does and God can be relied on for eternity.

## *The Second Lesson (Hebrews 9:24-28)*

The Jewish high priests offered the blood of animals but this was insufficient to purify the sins of the people. It had to be repeated each year.

Christ offered himself on a cross. His single sacrifice of himself purifies humanity's sin for all time.

Christ did not enter a sanctuary made by human hands, a mere copy of the true one, but he entered into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. Nor was it to offer himself again and again, as the high priest enters the Holy Place year after year with blood that is not his own; for then he would have had to suffer again and again since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the age to remove sin by the sacrifice of himself. And just as it is appointed for mortals to die once, and after that the judgment, so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin, but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

### **BIBLE STUDY:** Hebrews 9:24-28

The inadequacies of the Jewish high priests are highlighted once more. The Jewish priest offers blood that is not his own, and must repeat the sacrifice as he and his people continue to sin.

Jesus, the great high priest offers a single sacrifice. He sacrificially gives all that he has, his very life to save humanity. The sacrifice of Christ brings an end to spiritual death or eternal separation from God. It is sufficient to save us for all time.

Christ has entered into heaven itself, where he intercedes on behalf of humanity. His return to this world will be to save those who are waiting for him.

### QUESTIONS:

What are the things that human high priests did for the people. Why did they have to repeat them?

What did Christ do to save humanity? Did he need to repeat it?

### ACTIVITY:

Recite together the words of the Cantic of Praise—Christ Our Passover.

Book of Common Prayer Page 37

<http://www.anglicandioceseja.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Christ-Our-Passover-Proper-27.pdf>



Jesus warned about the hypocrisy of the scribes who sought power.

He also had little praise for the rich who placed large sums of money in the temple treasury. What they gave was not a sacrifice for them, however a poor widow who gave out of her scarcity was commended by Jesus.

As Jesus 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.”

## *Gospel (Mark 12:38-44)*

# St. Mark 12:38-44 Cont.

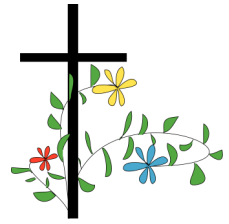
## BIBLE STUDY: St. Mark 12:38-44

The scribes were the religious teachers of the people, they also helped to interpret the law. Like other religious leaders, they knew what God desired for God's people. Unfortunately, they allowed their sense of importance to get to their heads, as they sought out the best seats and other symbols of power and authority.

Jesus condemned the hypocrisy and self-seeking behaviour of the scribes. They were busy seeking power and high positions, while those who were to be their priority for care, such as the widows and orphans, went about in abject poverty.

Next, Jesus observed persons placing their money in the temple treasury. The rich used it as an opportunity to show off the large sums of money they were giving. A poor widow also placed money in the treasury. It was only two small copper coins, very little money compared to what was contributed by the rich, but it represented all that she had. The rich people gave very little of what they actually had while the poor woman gave all that she had. It was the poor widow who received a commendation from Jesus.

The widow gave out of the abundance that she believed would one day come to her. The rich gave out of the abundance that they wanted to hold on to today. They showed very little faith, that God would care for them.



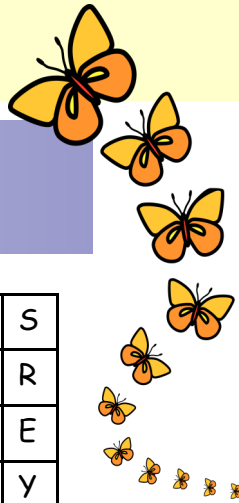
## QUESTIONS

What are the bad examples that the scribes demonstrated? Should Christians act like that?

What good examples does Jesus identify that Christians should use to guide how we live?

If you had only \$1, would you offer it to someone in need?

## Activity: Word Search St. Mark 12:38-44



E	E	T	P	U	S	O	N	G	Q	W	W	S	S
V	K	H	N	H	Y	R	W	W	H	E	O	E	R
I	V	G	S	S	N	I	O	C	Q	A	D	B	E
L	R	I	E	M	A	R	K	E	T	L	N	O	Y
E	A	L	L	V	G	J	L	U	I	T	I	R	A
E	R	E	P	P	O	C	N	S	E	H	W	A	R
R	A	D	M	B	G	H	Q	Y	E	N	O	M	P
E	E	K	E	B	U	P	J	I	Y	X	C	V	B
D	L	A	T	L	E	D	E	H	S	I	N	U	P
N	J	E	I	U	S	H	Y	G	Y	N	N	E	P
U	B	A	N	Q	U	E	T	S	T	Q	R	W	P
P	E	U	Y	R	U	S	A	E	R	T	O	F	O
L	A	W	U	U	Q	P	N	T	O	D	E	L	O
E	R	U	O	N	O	H	Q	E	I	Y	W	O	R
H	B	V	S	B	N	Y	T	W	U	I	I	O	P

Robes Treasury    Banquets Temple    Honour Penny  
 Live Synagogues Delight    Copper Money Coins  
 Poor Punished    Wealth Prayers Market Widow

## Activity: Colouring Pages

<http://www.anglicandioceseja.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Two-Small-Coins-Colouring-Pages-Proper-27.pdf>

We hope you found this newsletter informative and useful.

Please feel free to share it with others.

We extend our thanks to all the persons who assisted in the preparation of this newsletter.

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A Publication of the  
 Department of Education & Youth  
 The Diocese of Jamaica & The Cayman Islands  
 2021

