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South Eastern Minnesota  
Sermon Starters for November 2009

November 8, 2009 – Mark 12:38-44

Both the Old Testament text and the gospel text speak of the generosity and trust of widows. They are both unconventional heroes of faith.

We have the widow of Zarephath who encounters Elijah, who asks her to prepare him a small cake of bread, and he promises her the jar of flour and the jug of oil will last. The test of faith is that the widow does as Elijah asks and prepares a cake for him and the flour and oil lasts as God promised.

Then we read in the gospel that Jesus sits down and watches as people deposit their offerings in the temple courts of Jerusalem. Jesus watches the rich people putting in large amounts, but he calls his disciples' attention to one poor widow who puts in two small coins. Jesus says *"I tell you the truth, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything – all she had to live on."*

Such trust is rare, and even rarer from two widows who had so little. These two widows recognized that God had blessed them, and they used what they had to respond so what they had could be used to help others. Great acts of faithfulness occur when we place our trust and resources in God's hands. Widows who had little status in Old Testament or Jesus' time have become heroes through their actions and their faith. How can you demonstrate your trust and generosity though your grateful response to God's blessings in your lives?



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