

“Live fast, die young, leave a good looking corpse.”

“He who dies with the most toys wins.”

“Money talks, b... but everything else ... walks.”

Welcome to the twenty-first century. The era of material boys and material girls. Big screen TVs have gotten bigger. Big cars have given way to even bigger SUVs. I guess the only thing that’s getting smaller are iPods.

“there is only a handful of flour in my jar  
and a little oil in my jug.

Just now I was [going to] prepare something for myself and my son;  
when we have eaten it, we shall die.”

The widow in the first reading is not in a very good way. Not at all. She’s going to make the last supper for herself and her son. When Elijah, the man of God, the mighty prophet of God, asks her to make something for him. And she does.

And what does God do for her? A miracle. All you can eat bread for a year!

But why? Because of her generosity? She had nothing. But she trusted. And she gave everything.

“once for all [Jesus] has appeared at the end of the ages  
to take away sin by his sacrifice ... Christ,  
offered once to take away the sins of many”.

The second reading tells us of Christ’s sacrifice. All of the sacrifices that came before Jesus’ were figures ... types ... foreshadowing’s of His one perfect sacrifice. And for us, the followers of Jesus, His one sacrifice perfects all of our little sacrifices.

Isn’t it amazing? God became a little baby. And God grew up. And God suffered a horrible death so that my sins ... your sins ... our sins ... would be forgiven.

Why did He do it? Jesus is God. Jesus is everything because God is everything. Infinite. Infinitely infinite. And he became finite. Relatively speaking, he became nothing. Why? Because God is generous. The Son of God gave up all that snazzy God stuff for each and every one of us. He gave everything so that we could have eternal life.

“Amen, I say to you, this poor widow put in more  
than all the other contributors [because] ...  
she, from her poverty, has contributed all she had,  
her whole livelihood.”

In the Gospel, there’s another widow. A new widow. Widow 2 point Oh. It’s about 900 years later. Jesus and his disciples are in the Temple. And she puts in two small coins – two of the smallest coins that existed – into the Temple collection. Jesus praises her for her generosity. In giving those two small coins she gives everything she has. She had nothing. And she gave everything.

Where does this leave us? The material boys and girls of the twenty-first century? What does God want from us? I for one can say that this is a very scary proposition. If you aren’t scared by what God is asking, you’re either way holier than I am, or you just woke up.

But I think we already know the answer to what God wants from us. If we are to be authentic followers of Jesus we have to ... we – have – to ... live lives of generosity. We have to live lives of sacrifice. In a certain way, I think we all already sacrifice – all of us sacrifice to a point. Some of us, I know, sacrifice more than others.

Do we trust God? Do we trust Jesus? Again, I’d have to say we all trust God up to a point. Some of us trust God to a greater extent, and some of us trust God to a lesser extent.

My brothers and sisters, Jesus gave up everything so that we might have eternal life. What can we do ... what should we do ... how can we imitate Jesus more fully in our lives?