

## Homily For Saturday of the 9th Week of Ordinary Time- Year II

### St Peter's 8:30am Mass - June 6, 2020

**2 Tim 4:1-8** "Some will turn away from truth to their own desires. Proclaim the message persistently."

**Psalm 71:8-22** "I will sing praise to you, O Holy One of Israel."

**Mark 12:38-44** ". "

### Give It All You Have

#### Introduction

The Gospel, it has been said, should bring comfort and consolation to those who are afflicted. Today, maybe the Good News is particularly for you, or someone you know, who needs to be lifted up. But the second purpose of the Gospel is that it must also afflict the comfortable. I don't know who is comfortable these days, but for any serious follower of Jesus, a sincere reading of this gospel passage HAS to leave the reader uncomfortable, just a little afflicted.

#### Mark

If it happened to the first disciples, who hung out with Jesus, it is going to happen to us who really want to be his disciples today. It says Jesus was watching people put money in the temple treasury. That was the tax that supported the temple upkeep and the priests. Jews were required to give an annual half-shekel for its support and there were special containers at the temple for this purpose.

Now we should know about Jesus that he wasn't watching to see if they put in the right amount. He was noticing their attitudes as they did it. Some who were obviously well off made a show of their contribution, wanting everyone around to know they were doing their part, or even more than their share.

When he noticed the poor widow put in two small copper coins, he gathered them around to teach them. Look at this woman. 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.

Mother Teresa, now St. Teresa of Calcutta, in her speech accepting the Nobel Peace Prize, told her well off audience that they should give to the poor. But she said, I don't want you to give from your abundance. I want you to give until it hurts. I remember feeling a little annoyed at this. I wondered why she would put down the amount of the gift offered for the poor. But this passage tells us that it is the letting go of worldly wealth, even if it is not much, that is the key to following the path of holiness.

St. Teresa went on to tell the story of the time someone dropped off a bag of rice at the sisters' house. Right away, she took the bag of rice to a Hindu widow's family she knew were hungry. When she brought the rice into that home, that widowed mother immediately divided the rice in half and went to go out. St. Teresa asked where she was going. She said, I know a poor Muslim family who are also hungry. I will bring them this rice.

### **Paul's Last Words to A Bishop**

Now St. Paul was not with the disciples that day at the temple, but he had learned that lesson well. In his final days of imprisonment before his execution, he was teaching Timothy, whom he had ordained as bishop of the Church at Ephesus.

Paul had learned to give everything he had. He said, I am being poured out as a libation - as an offering to God. What an image. Does that image of being poured out remind you of anything? After so long a time since you have been at mass in person, you will hear our priest say: This is the chalice of my blood, the blood of the new and eternal covenant. It will be poured out for you and for your sins.

My High School track coach was watching his runners race. One of the more talented boys had just done quite poorly. Coach was thinking that some days are just like that. We can't always be at our best. But then he noticed the young lad playing games with his buddies. They were running around and, at one point, he jumped over a fence to get a ball. The coach called him over and said to him: You didn't give it everything you had today or, as he put it, ye did na give it all ye had, lad.

## **Conclusion**

What does Jesus want from us as disciples who give all they have? Is it poverty? A few will be called to that. Is it great trial and hardship? Yes, some may be called to that? But what about something that applies to everyone? He wants us. He wants you and I. He wants our hearts first. He wants for us the humility to allow him to enter into our lives and transform them.

The world also wants our hearts and souls. The time has come when many people do not accept the doctrine of Jesus Christ, but they gather teachers to suit their own desires. The world wants to convince us of the doctrine of success and pride. But Jesus just wants us to trust him who poured himself out for us, who humbled himself for our sake.

This is the same Lord who says to us today, I will raise you up on the last day. I am going to prepare a place for you in my father's house and come back to take you with me.

To whom else would we want to go? He has the words of everlasting life. Shall we commit ourselves to be able to say at the end of our time on this earth, I have fought the good fight. I have finished the race. I have kept the faith. Reserved for me is the crown of righteousness, for me and all who long for him.