

THE BEST THAT WE HAVE

Mark 12:38-44

I. THE WIDOW'S PLIGHT

- A. *And a poor widow came, and put in two copper coins, which make a penny. (Mark 12:42)*
 - 1. She was poor, unmarried, and part of the underclass of society.
 - 2. Now she was literally "penniless."
- B. Paul Writing from Prison.
 - 1. *I thank God in all my remembrance of you. (Philippians 1:3)*
 - 2. Most of us occupy prisons of some special design.
- C. The First Thanksgiving.
 - 1. Half of the 102 Pilgrims died of malnourishment.
 - 2. They planted three crops but only the corn survived.
 - 3. Some proposed a Day of Mourning to honor those who had perished. They decided on a Day of Thanksgiving instead.

II. THE WIDOW'S MIGHT

- A. *And he called his disciples to him, and said to them, "Truly, I say to you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury..." (Mark 10:43)*
- B. The Power of God.
 - 1. *My grace is sufficient for you. (2 Corinthians 12:9)*
 - 2. "When you have nothing left but God, then for the first time you become aware that God is enough." (Maude Royden)
- C. The Nevertheless of Faith.
 - 1. A six word definition of hell: "I wish I were somewhere else!"
 - 2. Much is wrong in the world, evil is great, **NEVERTHELESS** let us praise God, **NEVERTHELESS** let us give thanks!

III. TURN YOUR COFFEE CUP UP

- A. *"For they all contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, her whole living." (Mark 10:44)*
- B. If You Are in the Spring of Life.
 - 1. If the seeds have just been planted, the job just begun, the baby just born ...
 - 2. Thank God for what is still to come.
- C. If You Are in the Fall or Winter of Life.
 - 1. Look back on the gifts of the past, and remember them.
 - 2. Be grateful for grandparents and Sunday school teachers and pastors and husbands and wives ...
- D. Now Thank We All Our God!

Prayer Concerns: Members – Burney Biesel, Sarah Clark, Mac Kerr, Laura Hart, **Diane Mallard**, Anne Miller ... **Friends** – Bobby Atkins, Ed Bowen, Lane Brasfield, Erin Crawford, Helen Davis, Jane Davis, Ruby Dudley, Kenny Frazee, **Joanna Grathwell**, Kathy Greer, Bonnie Hart, Jim Hixon, Benette Hobday, Linda Lindner, Judy Malaquias, Macy Morgan, Shirley Rice, **Dustin Salter**, **Wanda Savage**, Jennie Stafford, **Peyton Vickery** ...

Christian Sympathy: We extend our sympathy to **Diane Mallard and family** in the death of her mother, **Bertie Owen**, who died on Monday, November 13.

PASTORAL PRAYER

Bountiful God, what a variety of blessings we have received, and we give thanks for them. Some of us give thanks for days filled with tasks to be done, for strength to do them, for persons to do them with. Some of us thank you for retirement earned, for trips to be made and grandchildren to see, for relaxed joy and time to spare. Some of us are grateful for the challenge of just beginning, for the excitement of getting away from home, and yet for parents who will be there when we come back. For work and retirement and school, for all this, we thank you.

But we call on you to be with us when clouds gather and storms come. When our jobs are tedious and boring, when co-workers are difficult and employers harsh and prospects dim, we need you. When we grow discouraged over knowing that our working life is over, when we feel used up and thrown away, we need you. We need you when we use the freedom of our youth to make mistakes, when home seems so far away, and we feel alone in the midst of so many.

O God of the raging storm and the quiet sea, we praise your name for loving us through it all, in the name of Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray ...

THE LORD'S PRAYER (to be sung): **Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

MARK 12:38-44

And in his teaching he said, "Beware of the scribes, who like to go about in long robes, and to have salutations in the market places and the best seats in the synagogues and the places of honor at feasts, and devour widows' houses and for a pretense make long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation."

And he sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the multitude putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. And a poor widow came, and put in two copper coins, which make a penny. And he called his disciples to him, and said to them, "Truly, I say to you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. For they all contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, her whole living."

COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE

The Dyer County Ministerial Organization is sponsoring a Community Thanksgiving Service at the First Baptist Church of Dyersburg at 5:00 o'clock tonight. Rev. Mathews George, Associate Pastor of Tucker Street Church, will be the speaker. Our *Acts of God* drama group will have the call to worship.

SERMON SCHEDULE

In the Sanctuary:

November 26 *What Is Truth?* John 18:33-37

December 3 *Can You Read the Signs?* Luke 21:25-36

On the Radio (1450 AM):

November 26 *I Shall Become Myself* Exodus 3:1-15

December 3 *God's Great Desire* Psalm 23