



# The Shepherd's Voice

November 6, 2012

By Fr. Joe Rees

## “Mighty Woman of God”

“For they all contributed out their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had to live on.” Mark 12: 44.

Jesus observes a poor widow putting into the temple treasury two small copper coins, her offering to God. Jesus saw others putting in their offerings but it was out of their abundance. The metal, trumpet-shaped receptacles in front of the temple would make a loud noise if a large donation was given. The ostentatious rich would come and relish the attention others gave when they heard the loud sound of coins clanging into the treasury. Jesus frowned upon this I'm sure! He sees this simple, unassuming, impoverished woman take her last two coins that wouldn't have even have given her a day's food and slide them down the trumpet that didn't even make a sound. Who cared? God did. With her two 'lepta' that make a 'kodrantes', worth about 1/64<sup>th</sup> of a denarius, a day's wage for a laborer, she gave her all! What would she do for her living? Who would care for her? Why give so much on such a meager living?

Behind the story of the 'Widow's Mite' is a deeper reality of life. Jesus was quick to see the real treasure, the real wealth of this woman. It was in the court of women that believers were expected to come to express their worship to God and give their offerings. Men could go further into the temple but not women. Jesus highlights the extraordinary value of this woman. I don't recall any man He ever highlighted for going into the Temple, except Simeon perhaps. But the point is this, He noticed the woman who would have otherwise been unnoticeable, of no consequence, of no connection to power or authority, of no real merit due to her lowly position in the male-dominated society. Yet, Jesus noticed her. His compassion and insight lift her to

prominence in His mind as having great and wonderful value.

The implication to all of us is that God places eternal value on the 'actions from the heart', making for true wealth and therefore eternal happiness. This is what made her a mighty woman of God. She acted on faith and love for her God. She was ready to face whatever might come, spending her last penny, to show forth her love for God. Jesus, the Son of God, knew it, felt it, rejoiced in His heart over her for what she had done. Her simple act of a totally devoted heart given to her Lord was received by God as the most valued treasure He could ever hope for in giving life to His people on earth. After she passed on uneventfully, I'm sure Jesus lifted her up in His prayer to the Father, and in all likelihood, the Father through His believing community, provided additional graces to her in helping her live on with food, clothing, shelter and dignity. She would not have been forgotten by Jesus! His faithful followers would have taken her in, provided for her, and given her basic needs. He would have imparted to her an eternal blessing. Then, her cup would have overflowed!

The heavenly Father knows our hearts and our actions. He knows the spirit of each one of us. He knows when we are in communion with Him through His Son, Jesus. He knows by His Spirit when we are not truthful in our devotions or our offerings. He knows when we give from the heart, not just from our abundance. He knows the 'why's' and the 'why not's'...all our 'reasons' while we're rationalizing. Jesus knows us through and through. He knows our "I should have's..." and our "I gave for Your glory".

Is it possible that we are just a little more like the other folks who didn't even see this widow? Let's try to find ways we could be more 'mighty' for the

Lord. Let's listen to our hearts and act on the message we're getting from God. One way right now, is to give a gift through the church to help the folks that were hit hard by hurricane Sandy. The Anglican Church of North America has given us direction to send a combined monetary gift right now to the churches in the NYC, New Jersey and surrounding areas. The Reformed Episcopal Church (which is under the ACNA umbrella) Diocese of the Northeast needs funds for their parishes in the recovery process. Below is the address of the Anglican Relief and Development Fund that will make sure all is given to their needs. You can send your gift offering directly to that address (noting Hurricane Sandy in the memo line) or through our church that will send one check of all offerings received. Even if we just gave \$10/person from the church we would have helped greatly. But, perhaps others might want to give from their hearts. Please consider it. A special offering basket will circulate this Sunday to aide our brethren in

these devastated areas. Thank you. Jesus will remember you!

May God bless you and make you 'mighty men and women of God' doing 'acts from the heart' for the glory of His Kingdom.

With love in Jesus,  
Fr. Joe

Funds should be sent to:  
**The Anglican Relief and Development Fund**  
**P.O. Box 3830**  
**Pittsburgh, PA 152303830**  
With a notation "Hurricane Sandy or other relief as needed" in the memo line.

**Sunday Servers this week...**

<b>November 11, 2012</b>	<b>Proper 27</b>		<b>9:00 a.m. Service</b>
First Reader	1 Kings 17:8-16		Doug Hall
Psalm Reader	Psalm 146		Trish Snider
Second Reader	Hebrews 9:24-28	Second Sunday	Ann Fox
Intercessors		One Service	Acolyte
Lay Euch. Ministers			John & Myrna Lipnicke
Acolytes			Chris K (C); Caitlin B (T1); Damon W (T2)
Welcomers			Chris Corey, Anna Teixeira
Ushers			Dink Nash, Ted Vallas, Ray Seibold, Ken Putnam
Vestry Person of Day	Michael Murphy		
Healing Ministers			Ann & JR Fox, Kari Campbell, Jan Simon
Announcer			Myrna Lipnicke

**Shoe Box Filling Party**  
at Connie Fowle's home  
Saturday, November 10<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m.  
Come help stuff the boxes and fill some extra boxes with goodies. Bring some things to fill boxes if you have them. Snacks will be served.

**November 12, 2012**  
**OSL Healing Conference**  
at Grace with Mike Endicott  
See flyers for more information and to register.

**All Parish Work Day**  
Saturday, November 10<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to noon  
Put on your grubby clothes and come help us with some cleaning, painting and fixing. We'll provide the tools and supplies. Join us for a morning of fellowship as we work to keep our church beautiful and in good repair.

**Volunteer to help with the Shopping Day for the military families – Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> 10 to 3.**  
Rock the babies, play games with young children, read a story, help with the snacks, help with lunch, help with ... Let's make this a place where these young parents can drop their children off while they do some Christmas shopping for their children.

## Sunday at Grace

9:00 a.m. – One Service  
9:00 a.m. – Children's Church  
10:45 a.m. – Second Sunday  
Fellowship at Grace

Mike Endicott  
Healing Conference  
November 12<sup>th</sup>  
(See flyers in Narthex)  
Sponsored by OSL

## Readings for Sunday

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

We are using the English Standard  
Version of the Bible and the Lectionary  
from the Book of Common Prayer (Year B)

### This Week at Grace –Nov. 6- Nov. 13

#### Tues. November 6 – Don't forget to vote!

11:30 a.m. Rector's Bible Study – Isaiah  
4:30 p.m. Healing Eucharist at the Oasis  
6:30 p.m. Potluck Fellowship Dinner  
7:15 p.m. "Christianity Explored"

#### Wed November 7

8:30 a.m. Morning Prayer  
9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting  
6:30 p.m. Youth Group  
6:30 p.m. Healing Service at Grace

#### Thurs. November 8

7:00 a.m. – Bible Study  
8:00 a.m. Clergy Meeting  
10-Noon Play Group  
11:30 a.m. Healing Eucharist – Oasis  
3:30 p.m. Alpha Club  
6:15 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

#### Fri. November 9

Fr. Joe's Day Off  
6:00 p.m. Evening Prayer and Healing at Grace

#### Sat. November 10

8:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study  
9:00 a.m. All Church work day at Grace  
2:00 p.m. Helen Fritz Memorial Service

#### Sun. November 11 – Second Sunday

9:00 a.m. One Service  
9:00 a.m. Children's Church  
10:30 a.m. Second Sunday Fellowship

#### Mon. November 12

Veteran's Day Observed – Church Office Closed  
6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer  
Mike Endicott Healing Conference at Grace  
Morning, Afternoon and Evening Sessions.

#### Tues. November 13

11:30 a.m. Rector's Bible Study at Grace  
4:30 p.m. Healing Eucharist at the Oasis  
6:30 p.m. Potluck Fellowship Dinner  
7:15 p.m. "Christianity Explored"

### Rector's Bible Study

Tuesdays  
11:30 a.m.

Fr. Joe is leading the group through a study of  
the Book of Isaiah. Everyone is welcome.  
B.Y.O.L. (Bring your own lunch)

**Wednesdays at 8:30 a.m.**  
**Morning Prayer At Grace Anglican**  
**All are welcome to attend.**

**Weekly** – There are over 25 small groups meeting  
during the week. Check our newsletter for a list of  
all the groups or you can find the list on our website:  
[www.graceanglicanchurch.com](http://www.graceanglicanchurch.com).

## Save the date!

Nov. 7 Healing Service at Grace  
Nov. 10 All Church Work Day 9:00 a.m. to noon  
Nov. 10 2:00 p.m. – Helen Fritz Memorial Service  
Nov. 12 Veteran's Day Observed – office closed.  
Nov. 12 Mike Endicott – OSL Healing Conference  
at Grace Anglican Church  
Nov. 14 Br. Benno's Team serves  
Nov. 14 Soaking Prayer  
Nov. 17 Military Outreach – Childcare for shoppers.  
Nov. 20 No teaching or potluck tonight  
Nov. 22 Thanksgiving service at 10:00 a.m.  
Nov. 22 Thanksgiving dinner at Grace – 11:30 a.m.  
Nov. 25 Turn in your Angel Tree gifts  
Nov. 25 Fund raiser for Grace at Shakey's Pizza  
Nov 28 Vestry Meeting

## Did you know?

There's a service of Evening Prayer and Healing on  
Friday evenings at 6:00 p.m. Stop by on your way  
home from work and decompress for the weekend.