

June 7, 2008
Saturday of the Ninth Week in Ordinary Time

Readings of the day may be found on the following link:

<http://www.nccbuscc.org/nab>

2 Timothy 4:1-8

Psalms 71:8-9, 14-15ab, 16-17, 22

Mark 12:38-44

"Amen, I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all the other contributors to the treasury. For they have all contributed from their surplus wealth, but she, from her poverty, has contributed all she had, her whole livelihood."□

I wonder what prompted this woman to give all that she possessed. What did she believe that made her respond with such magnitude? How, then, did she live without financial resources? It is the latter question that keeps many of us from giving to this extent. At least it does for me. Is it just money we are being asked to surrender? I think of Francis of Assisi, Thomas Merton, Dorothy Day and so many others who changed everything about their lives to follow the call of Jesus. I am struck by the magnitude of such an offering. The gospel story today is a less dramatic story and therefore it is easy to miss the magnitude of her gift. We have no idea when, or even if, she will receive additional funds to support her. How do I surrender myself to the love of God as this woman surrendered all she possessed? What am I being prompted to give? Am I holding on tightly or do I freely give faithfully? How can the woman in today's gospel be a companion to me as I walk through my faith journey each day?

"Pride destroys everything. To imitate Jesus is the key to be meek and humble in heart." ~Mother Theresa