

The widow is teaching us a lesson from life. What money she has is very little, but she knows that money alone will not save her, or bring her comfort. Her life is in God's hands. She knows this. The disposition of her heart is to be generous. She trusts that God will not fail her. She prays for God's kingdom to come. She prays for daily bread. She prays for the grace to live in peace with others, and to be delivered from all evil.

Application

One day when Jesus was preaching to the people, a woman in the crowd was so impressed with him that she shouted out, "Blessed is the womb that bore you!" It was an early shout of praise for Mary, the mother of Jesus: Mary, the young girl of Nazareth, who also became a widow. It was a tribute to her womanly heart, and her motherly guidance of this eloquent preacher from Galilee.

In response to this cry, Jesus took the occasion to say, "Blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!" Our spiritual kinship with Jesus is even more important than the flesh-and-blood ties of earthly life. The Lord is reminding us that every day, as long as this today lasts, is a day to listen to what the Lord is saying to us. It is not for us to presume that we know everything there is to know. Each day is a day to grow in our knowledge and service of the Lord.

In times of hardship, in sad and sorrowful times, it is tempting to forget about the Lord. That is when we may need to listen to widows, those brave women who have known loss, and who have persevered in the love of God. "Jar of meal shall not be spent, jug of oil shall not be emptied, before the day when the Lord sends rain on the face of the earth."