

INTRO

Today we hear about 2 widows – both poor, both little – but both have faith and give best

- Here's the point – you don't have to be some great powerful person to make a difference in this world. You just have to do your best with what you have.
- Both widows didn't have much, but they did what God asked them to do with what they had – the same is true for us – even in the NSJ LUP

ELIJAH

- Ahab (king) versus Elijah (prophet)
- Elijah prophesies no rain – 3 years – from brook to Zerephath then THIS READ
1st WIDOW meets Elijah – “Bring me a cup of water – Oh, and make me a cake”
Widow “I only have a handful of flour – I bake – We eat – then die”
Elijah “Do as you say BUT first make ME a cake, then prepare for yourself”
FOR THE LORD GOD SAYS –

What would you do?

Elijah has a lot of crust, don't you think?

BUT it's the LORD GOD SAYS part that the woman trusts, 100%

Her faith in the prophecy saves her life – God is faithful

Know this in NSJ – God is faithful

So how do we respond when we trust God and He is faithful? PS146

WE RESPOND WITH PRAISE “Praise the Lord my soul” READ IT

I said God is faithful – look at how God is described in this Psalm

The Lord keeps faith forever

He secures justice

Gives food to the hungry

Sets captives free

Gives sight to the blind

Raises those bowed down

Loves the Just

Protects strangers

Praise the Lord my Soul!

That's what the reading from HEB is all about:

It says Jesus appears before God on our behalf to bring salvation - Praise God!

READ IT

GOSPEL

Here's the 2nd WIDOW Jesus sees her in the temple and uses her to teach Scribes with long robes – places of honor – Donate with pomp & ceremony (it's the same today – in the papers – Bank of America donates soccer field) Unlike scribes the Widow quietly donates 2 small coins – no fanfare here.

Gives of herself (as little as it was)

Scribes gave from their plenty – she from her poverty

As a %, she gave much more – trusting in God rather than \$

What the Widows both teach us is GIVING OF YOURSELF is what's important

Both Widows lived her faith and gave her best

What is our best – are we willing to surrender ourselves just as totally?