

32nd Sunday of Ordinary Time

1 Kings 17:10-16
Ps 146:7-10
Hebrews 9:24-28
Mark 12:38-44

Monday November 8

Wisdom 1:1-7
Ps 139:1b-10
Luke 17:1-6

Tuesday November 9 Lateran Basilica in Rome

Ezekiel 47:1-2,8-9,12
Ps 46:2-3,5-6,8-9
1 Corinthians 3:9c-11,16-17
John 2:13-22

Wednesday November 10 St. Leo the Great

Wisdom 6:1-11
Ps 82:3-4,6-7
Luke 17:11-19

Thursday November 11 St. Martin of Tours

Wisdom 7:22b -- 8:1
Ps 119:89-91,130,135,175
Luke 17:20-25

Friday November 12 St. Josaphat

Wisdom 13:1-9
Ps 19:2-5ab
Luke 17:26-37

Saturday November 13 St. Frances Xavier Cabrini

Wisdom 18:14-16; 19:6-9
Ps 105:2-3,36-37,42-43
Luke 18:1-8

Following Jesus requires a tremendous amount of trust, because he often takes us to unexpected places that require new growth, sacrifices, and moving beyond the boundaries of what's familiar and comfortable.

Consider the two widows in this Sunday's first reading and the Gospel reading. How could they give what common sense says they could not afford? Did they know with total certainty that God would take care of their needs? No. So they gave all they had because they were so in love with God that they trusted his love for them.

Trust is a sign of genuine love -- especially when the one we trust is God. We can love others more freely and generously if we trust God to help us through the difficulties that occur when people prove themselves untrustworthy. Our freedom to love others unconditionally is not based upon how safe we are with them; it's based on how safe we are with God.

Each widow gave what she could not afford to lose. We

cannot afford to love those who will cause us grief and disappointment and feelings of rejection, and yet Jesus tells us to forgive them and do good to them and go the extra mile for them.

Sometimes doing good to those who are difficult to love must include "tough love", which asserts boundaries



that they are not allowed to cross. Remember what Jesus did: Until Good Friday, Jesus always walked away from his persecutors. Did he stop loving them? Not at all. And sometimes it means enabling them to reap what they sow so that they begin to understand their need to repent. Instead of cleaning up their messes, we have to let them suffer from it. Think about it: Does God clean up our messes before we repent? Usually he won't even do that after we repent. What would we learn if someone else does the damage control?

Loving others always includes sacrificing ourselves and relying on God to comfort us, heal us, restore us, and bless us. We can trust God for this. Our jar of whatever we pour out to others for the sake of love will never go empty.

Reflect & Discuss:

1. What needs healing or correction in your thinking so you can feel secure and fully loved by God?
2. Describe a time when you gave more than you thought you could give: more money, more love, more time, more patience – more of anything. What motivated you to be so generous?
3. What were the end results? What did you learn?