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26 Monday

MONDAY, 34th WEEK OF YEAR

Dan.1:1-6, 8-20

Psalm: Dan 3:52-56

Luke 21:1-4

In this last week of the Church Year, the liturgical scripture readings have a feel of things coming to an end. Except for the Feast of St Andrew on 30<sup>th</sup>, the gospels are from St Luke ch.21, right before the start of Jesus' Passion. We hear Him teaching in Jerusalem and warning about the coming disasters and destruction of the city. Today's few verses give us His thoughts as He watched people putting their donations into the temple treasury. As He reflects and points out the huge difference in generosity and self-sacrifice between the offering of a poor widow and those of all the other donors, he seems somehow sad. It's as if His teaching has been a failure, and He hasn't moved the hearts of those who "have": it's the "have not" widow who really trusts God and puts her life and livelihood in His hands. Jesus challenges our values, but mostly we still judge by external things (the "two small coins") rather than by what's in peoples hearts, and in our own. Like the rest of the materialist society around us, Christians also tend to honour and admire the "generosity" of big donations by people who suffer not at all from the 'loss' of what they give away. In giving and sharing of what we ourselves have, whatever our 'economic' status, do we really feel our livelihood affected? How really generous can we be in following Him who gave and gives us all we are and have?

Dearest Lord, teach me to be generous; to give and never count the cost; to seek no reward other than knowing I do Your will.

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Text word-count: 276