
24 Monday

MONDAY 34th WEEK of YEAR

Dan 1: 1-6,8-20
Ps: Dan 3: 52-56
Luke 21: 1-4

The great tycoons of our age get great praise, and even awe and reverence, when they generously donate huge sums of money for public institutions like universities, hospitals, libraries and large construction projects. Often they leave their names on these monuments too, seeking perhaps the gratitude of future generations, and to gain some lasting historical fame. Does any one of them ever give more than a small fraction of “all they have to live on” ? Will any of them be remembered in 2000 years’ time, like that anonymous poor widow that Jesus noticed putting just two small coins into the temple treasury ? Would Jesus think any of them ‘generous’ ? He considered the widow actually gave more than any of the rich people putting in their big donations. On His values, praiseworthy generosity is not measured by crude money totals. In generosity to charities, appeals, fundraising campaigns it’s notably the less well-off people who give more of “all they have to live on”. The measure of true Christian charity is not money totals but the heart-giving. But giving my heart and giving from my heart can be risky --- I have to give away something of “all that I have to live on”. That’s very different from giving away what I don’t really need, what I can’t accurately count, and what I won’t really miss. Is there not more that I could give to others in need, to my society and community, not for the sake of fame and people’s admiration but because I want to share the Lord’s gifts and His love ? Teach me, Lord, to be generous; to give and not count the cost.

Wordcount: 280