

God's Life-Giving Word

God's Word is bit like the ocean. While there is plant life like algae and plankton on the surface level, the deeper you dive, the more life you will find. Because God inspires the Sacred Scriptures, each time you read them with an open heart, you will always discover something new in them.

For example, in today's Gospel, Mark places the generosity of the poor widow immediately after Jesus' condemnation of the scribes, who promoted themselves by enjoying "places of honor" and praying "lengthy prayers."

By placing the hypocrisy of the scribes right before to the genuineness of the poor widow, Mark is trying to teach us about the **motive** of our giving and the **measure** of our giving. Whereas the scribes do things for show and the rich contribute from the surplus of their wealth, the widow contributes humbly and out of her poverty. In other words, Mark wants the reader to know the importance of giving everything with a pure heart. Such an interpretation can help us evaluate our motives in doing good things for others.

However, it is not the only interpretation. By diving in further, one will discover another interpretation – a spiritual interpretation - to the Gospel passage. For example, some of the Church Fathers have proposed that the widow symbolically represents the Church, whose husband, Christ Himself, died on her behalf.

Out of poverty of spirit, the widow or the Church gives everything she has - two small coins of charity, representing the love of God and neighbor. The Church, then, gives everything she has to God and to the poor out of gratitude for what Christ did for her on the Cross.

If possible, try to take a little time to read the scriptures each day. And have fun with them too! For example, I might suggest taking time to read over the coming Sunday Mass readings early in the week - on a Monday or Tuesday - asking the good Lord as you do so, "Lord, what are you trying to tell me in these readings?"

I can assure you that in reading God's Word, over time He will speak to you in one way or another. Be not afraid, then, to dive in to the sacred pages of scripture because they are teeming with life.