


	The poor widow	
Presence of God	Considering how God looks at me.	
History Mark 12, 41 – 44	<p>41 He sat down opposite the treasury and watched the people putting money into the treasury, and many of the rich put in a great deal.</p> <p>42 A poor widow came and put in two small coins, the equivalent of a penny.</p> <p>43 Then he called his disciples and said to them, 'In truth I tell you, this poor widow has put more in than all who have contributed to the treasury; 44 for they have all put in money they could spare, but she in her poverty has put in everything she possessed, all she had to live on.'</p>	
Petition	<i>Lord, may I know you more clearly, love you more deeply and follow you more nearly!</i>	
Contemplation	<p>v 41 Being a widow in Jesus' times <i>Back in Jesus' times, things were very different: women did not have a job like your teachers or maybe your moms do. Only men worked and women did the housework and looked after their families at home. When the breadwinner died, that woman lost her only financial support. So, being a widow in Jesus' times meant living a life of deprivation, sometimes without a place to stay, food to eat or clothes to wear. Let's put ourselves in the shoes of this widow. How did this widow live? How did she feel? What was her relationship with God like?</i></p> <p>v 41 Putting the money they could spare <i>Where did this story take place? The Temple of Jerusalem did not look like our churches: it had lots of halls, patios, rooms for sacrifices and also a treasury where people could leave their charity donations. Jesus and his friends were there watching from the distance how the people put money. There were many rich people who put in a great deal. Imagine the place, try to see Jesus sitting at a corner with his friends ... (silence) Imagine ... How did the rich feel when they put in what they could spare?</i></p> <p>v 42 The widow's mite <i>Suddenly, Jesus saw a humble and poor widow who came and put in only two small coins, that is very little money. Let's imagine the happy face of that woman who put in everything she had to live on. Why did she do that? Why didn't she keep that money for herself? Why did she place so much trust in God that she put in everything she had to live on? How did she feel when she gave absolutely everything she had? (silence)... Why did Jesus feel so touched and tell everybody that she had put in more than the rest? What kind of attitudes does Jesus value the most? Tell the children that the widow had probably experienced that God had always supported her with his providence in her life. This profound feeling of gratitude is what makes us feel that we can place all our trust in God because everything comes from the Lord; and we know that He will keep on sustaining us as He has been doing so far.</i></p>	<p>The Old Testament stated that widows, orphans and foreigners truly deserved to be cared for because they were the poor par excellence.</p> <p>When in our lives we experience that everything has been given to us by God, we become more generous and grow more detached from things; and we trust God so much that we feel He deserves everything we have to live on, our lives. This encourages us to give Him our lives for love. That is the meaning of "Take, Lord, and receive". At the end of the month of SE, St. Ignatius tells us to ask for an interior knowledge of all the good we have received in order that, being entirely grateful, we may be able in all to love and serve God.</p>

Colloquy

Let's sit on the carpet, on the promised land, near Jesus, to hear him in the silence of our hearts.

Maybe Jesus felt so moved by this widow's attitude because he does the same for us: he gives us everything, for example on the cross where he spared us up to the last drop of his blood.

Feel that Jesus loves you so much that he gives you everything you have and wants to give you everything you need in your life so that you may become a better person (silence)... Thank him for his love, for his help and support; and offer him your whole life, like this widow did.

