

Refection Monday Week 34 - 2020

You could almost imagine that the widow in the gospel had been listening to Jesus story of the final judgement yesterday. One of the great elements of this story is the fact that Jesus noticed what she did and used her action as an opportunity to teach his followers. It is also encouraging for us to know that Jesus is aware of the small things we do. Anything we do with the whole of our heart will be noticed by God. Everything we do is important.

The following abridged story is true:-

Dear woman behind me in line at the grocery store, you don't know me. You have no clue what my life has been like. You have no clue that my family has gone through the wringer and faced unbelievable hardship. You have no clue we have been humiliated, humbled, destitute or that I have cried more days than not; that I fight against bitterness taking control of my heart. You have no clue that my husband's pride was shattered and my kids have had the worries of an adult on their shoulders. You have no clue their innocence was snatched from them for no good reason. You know none of this.

What you do know is I tried to buy my kids some food and that the cash machine was broken so I couldn't buy that food. I didn't have any cash or my debit card, only my SNAP card. All you heard was me saying *"No, don't hold it for me. My kids are hungry now and I have no other way of paying for this."* You didn't judge me or say *"you should have fewer kids."* You didn't say *"Get a job and learn to support yourself."* You didn't look away in embarrassment or shame. You made no assumptions at all.

But you did pay my \$17.38 grocery bill. You gave my children bananas, yogurt, apple juice, cheese sticks, and a peach ice tea for me; a rare treat and splurge. You let me hug you and promise through my tears that I WILL pay this forward. I WILL pay someone's grocery bill for them. That \$17.38 may not have been much for you, but it was priceless to us. My children called you; our *"angel in disguise."* They prayed that you would be blessed. You restored some of our lost faith. One simple and small action changed our lives. . . .

In my room, I saw a group of ten ants just running around frantically. I felt bad for them so I made a small house for them out of a cardboard box. This technically makes me their landlord and they are my..... **Ten-ants!!!!!!**