

November 8, 2015 "Lessons from the Unexpected" based on I Kings 17:8-16 and Mark 12:38-44

Many examples of how bad things are. Each politician has named at least one. But they pale when compared to the 2 in our lessons. Widows were prevalent and abused.

- Widow from I Kings, was approached by Elijah for water and food. Resigned to death. Elijah reassured her of God's care and both he and she were provided for.
- Widow in Mark gave her last coin to Temple treasury. Jesus used her example to 'show up' the rich who gave out of abundance while she gave out of poverty.
- We have challenges today, not as drastic, but they lead us to despair and to question our faith.

What are the timeless truths the Bible gives us for 'hard times'?

- We are encouraged not to give up. Sir Harry Platt died at age 100, was the 'father of modern orthopedic surgery', but as a child was a chronic invalid.
- We are to trust in God. Soren Kierkegaard described a childhood experience of learning to swim. Tried to fool his father by appearing to swim while touching the bottom with toe. We sometimes do the same with faith, not completely trusting God.
- We need to remember that God is always watching. Jesus not only watched the widow, but God was watching the widow in the first story along with Elijah. God saved both

Widows teach us not to give up, to trust in God, and remember that God watches over us.

- The message of the Gospel is that God offers the same hope for us. We mustn't let the hardships and challenges of our lives overwhelm us. We not only have the promise of eternal salvation, but the help and guidance of God in our life now. May we continue to call on God, a very present help and hope today!