

## *Surplus vs. Substance*

The starving widow of Zarephath  
gave to the prophet Elijah  
from her substance,  
not her surplus,  
and she lived.

The temple offering  
of the widow's mite.  
was from her substance,  
not her surplus,  
and she was praised.

When the fishermen from Galilee  
left their nets and boats  
to follow Jesus,  
they gave up their substance,  
not their surplus,  
and they became apostles.

The scraps that fell to Lazarus  
from the table of Dives  
were from the latter's surplus,  
not his substance,  
and he ended up in torment.

At the Yankee Stadium  
Pope Paul VI exhorted America  
to alleviate the misery of millions  
by sharing from our substance,  
and not merely our surplus.  
Have we risen to the challenge?

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