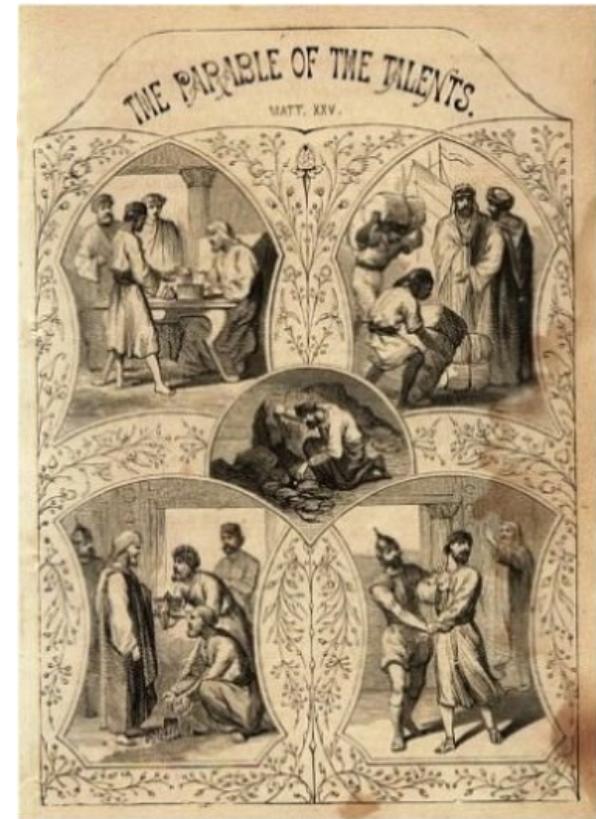


Link to Liturgy



Parable of the Talents 33rd Sunday of Ordinary Time

Link to Liturgy provides faithful resources which use the latest audiovisual means alongside traditional means to evangelize & catechize thus linking life to the Gospel & the Gospel to life. Sign up Free to Link to Liturgy.



Lessons and Discussions

Page 5 – Talents Needed

“Called in his servants and entrusted his possessions to them”

Page 10 – Lease on Life

“After a long time the master of those servants came back”

Page 13 – Risk Taking

“Should you not then have put my money in the bank”

Entrance Antiphon (Jer.29:11,12,14) – Simple English**Propers**

This should be chanted so that the time of prayer, study and discussion can be made sacred. Another song can be substituted, but should have the same theme.

Dicit Dominus: Ego

Jer 29: 11, 12, 14

VI

T HE Lord says: "I am pondering thoughts of peace and not of af-fliction; * you shall call upon me, and I will hear you; and I will bring you back from all the lands where you are held captive."

Source: <http://www.ccwatershed.org>

Alternate options:Hymns

At the Name of Jesus

Crown Him with Many Crowns

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Songs of Praise

All in All

Remnant

Do you Know Him? (Remnant)

Question Mark (Remnant)

Collect - Roman Missal

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen

Grant us, we pray, O Lord our God,

V. Ora pro nobis, sancta Dei Genitrix.

R. Ut digni efficamur promissionibus Christi.

Oremus. Omnipotens sempiterne Deus, qui gloriosae Virginis Matris Mariae corpus et animam, ut dignum Filii tui habitaculum effici mereretur, Spiritu Sancto cooperante, praeparasti, da, ut cuius commemoratione laetamur; eius pia intercessione, ab instantibus malis et a morte perpetua liberemur. Per eundem Christum Dominum nostrum. Amen.

Slave Regina (English Translation)

Hail, holy Queen, Mother of mercy, our life, our sweetness and our hope. To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve. To thee to we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn, then, most gracious advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us, and after this, our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.

V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.

R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray. Almighty and everlasting God, Who by the working of the Holy Spirit didst prepare both body and soul of the glorious Virgin Mother, Mary, that she might deserve to be made a worthy dwelling for Thy Son, grant that we who rejoice in her memory, may, by her loving intercession, be delivered from present evils and from lasting death, through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

"The End" Notes

[1] The Church's Year pg. 496

[2] Fr. John A. Hardon, S.J.; *Modern Catholic Dictionary*; page 230

[3] The Church's Year pg. 496

[4] The Church's Year pg. 496

[5] Saint Therese the Little Flower; *Story of a Soul*; Chapter 2

[6] J. Escriva, *Friends of God*, 46

[7] *In Conversation with God* 5, 82.3

[8] http://catholicism.about.com/od/thesaints/p/Saint_Aloysius.htm

[9] <http://www.bobandpennylord.com/bl-francis-xavier-seelos.htm>

[10] *In Conversation with God* 5, 82.1

[11] *In Conversation with God* 5, 82.1

[12] F. Suarez, *The Afterlife*, pg. 106

[13] Jerome Biblical Commentary Mat. 43:176

[14] *The Catholic Catechism* pg. 205

[15] Jerome Biblical Commentary Mat. 43:176

[16] http://www.crossroadsinitiative.com/pics/Parable_Talents.pdf

Marian Antiphon – Salve Regina

V
S

Alve Re-gí-na, * ma-ter mi-se-ri-córdi-æ, Vi-ta, dul-
cé-do, et spes nostra, salve. Ad te clamá-mus, éxsu-
les, fí-li- i Hevæ. Ad te suspi-rá-mus, geméntes et flen-
tes in hac lacrimá-rum valle. E-ia ergo, Advo-cá-ta
nostra, illos tu- os mi-se-ri-córdes ó-cu-los ad nos con-
vér-te. Et Je-sum, be-ne-díctum fructum ventris tu- i,
no-bis post hoc exsí-li- um osténde. O cle- mens:
O pi- a: O dulcis Virgo Ma-rí- a.

the constant gladness of being devoted to you,
for it is full and lasting happiness
to serve with constancy
the author of all that is good.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen

Gospel Reading – Matthew 25:14-30 – Roman Missal

NOTE: In the Roman Catholic Tridentine Lectionary this Gospel is not read

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
- Glory to you O Lord

Jesus told his disciples this parable: "A man going on a journey called in his servants and entrusted his possessions to them. To one he gave five talents; to another, two; to a third, one--to each according to his ability. Then he went away. Immediately the one who received five talents went and traded with them, and made another five. Likewise, the one who received two made another two. But the man who received one went off and dug a hole in the ground and buried his master's money.

After a long time the master of those servants came back and settled accounts with them. The one who had received five talents came forward bringing the additional five. He said, 'Master, you gave me five talents. See, I have made five more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, my good and faithful servant. Since you were faithful in small matters, I will give you great responsibilities. Come, share your master's joy.' Then the one who had received two talents also came forward and said, 'Master, you gave me two talents. See, I have made two more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, my good and faithful servant. Since you were faithful in small matters, I will give you great responsibilities. Come, share your master's joy.' Then the one who had received the one talent came forward and said, 'Master, I knew you were a demanding person, harvesting where you did not plant and gathering where you did not scatter; so out of fear I went off and buried your talent in the ground. Here it is back.' His master said to him in reply, 'You wicked, lazy

servant! So you knew that I harvest where I did not plant and gather where I did not scatter? Should you not then have put my money in the bank so that I could have got it back with interest on my return? Now then! Take the talent from him and give it to the one with ten. For to everyone who has, more will be given and he will grow rich; but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. And throw this useless servant into the darkness outside, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth."

The Gospel of the Lord.

- Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

Spiritual Reading

From St. Augustine

What then should the Christian do? He ought to use the world, not become its slave. And what does this mean? It means having, as though not having. So says the Apostle: *My brethren, the appointed time is short: from now on let those who have wives live as though they had none; and those who mourn as though they were not mourning; and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing; and those who buy as though they had no goods; and those who deal with this world as though they had no dealings with it. For the form of this world is passing away. But I wish you to be without anxiety.* He who is without anxiety waits without fear until his Lord comes. For what sort of love of Christ is it to fear his coming? Brothers, do we not have to blush for shame? We love him, yet we fear his coming. Are we really certain that we love him? Or do we love our sins more? Therefore let us hate our sins and love him who will exact punishment for them. He will come whether we wish it or not. Do not think that because he is not coming just now, he will not come at all. He will come, you know not when; and provided he finds you prepared, your ignorance of the time of his coming will not be held against you.

Responsory – Office of Readings – 33rd Sunday of Ordinary Time

The Son of Man will come in the glory of his Father with his angels.

– Then he will reward each according to his deeds.

St. Peter and St. Paul, Pray for us!

St. Thérèse, Patroness of Missionaries, Pray for us!

St Thomas Aquinas, Pray for us!

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

Acts was the Greek word *parrhesia*, meaning cheerful boldness in the face of danger or opposition. Without such boldness, Christianity would have stalled in Palestine. It never would have made it to Antioch, Greece, and Rome.

Faithfulness to God means having the courage to take bold initiatives, in pastoral life, family life, and business, to be creative, even entrepreneurial, to express our gratitude to God for all that He has given us by making it grow.”[16]

Profession of Faith or Popular Devotion – Prayer for the New Evangelization

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen

Lord Jesus Christ,
You have given your Church
the mission to proclaim the Gospel to all the nations.

May our efforts to fulfill this mission be guided by the Holy Spirit so that we might be a leaven of new life, salt of the earth and a light of the world, worthy missionaries and faithful to You.

Make us valiant witnesses to the Faith of the Church
and inspire us to speak the truth with love.

Help us to communicate to others the joy that we have received.

Permit us to be united, but not closed.
humble, but not fearful
simple, but not naïve
thoughtful, but not overbearing
contemporary, but not superficial
respectful of others, but boldly Your disciples.

May we bear into the world the hope of God, which is Christ the Lord,
who rose from the dead and lives and reigns with Father and the Holy Spirit,
one God forever and ever. Amen.

Holy Mary, Mother of God, Pray for us!
St. Joseph, Patron of the Universal Church, Pray for us!

He will judge the world with justice and the peoples with truth.
– Then he will reward each according to his deeds.

Talents Needed - Lesson and Discussion

“Called in his servants and entrusted his possessions to them”

In the closing weeks of Ordinary Time, Jesus uses parables to tell us that we all have many talents, and will be judged according to our use of those talents. Jesus speaks of the end of times, whether that is when He returns, or when we die.

Many times we may think of the “things of the world” as cars, money, etc. Our talents are also things of the world. Ideas and time are worth money. Saint Augustine says in the Spiritual Reading, “They [talents] can be used and misused. He ought to use the world, not become its slave.” **Can our talents, ideas, or time enslaved us?** Very often we see teens become slaves to sports, school or other activities. Many adults become slaves to their ideas and work. It is important that we use our skills for the glory of God, but we cannot become slaves to these things. **What does Saint Augustine mean by becoming a slave? Have activates, ideas, time we spend using our talents take us away from our obligation and necessity to prayer and worship? Do we miss Mass? Do we become so wrapped up in using our talents that we forget family and friends and find ourselves saying “no” to opportunities to grow in holiness?**

What is a talent? A talent, as mentioned within the parable, “was a unit of coinage of high but varying value depending on its metal (gold, silver, copper) and its place of origin”. (Mat. 18:24 footnotes) **How much is a talent worth?** One talent was the equivalent of about one thousand dollars. Imagine if someone entrusted someone else with a thousand dollars, two thousand, or even five thousand dollars: **Knowing the master would want something done with it, what would you do?**

ACTIVITY – What would you do with your grand?

You can use newspaper ads or even the internet if people have a smart phone. Have them look at the classified ads and think about what they would buy if they had \$1,000; \$2,000 or \$5,000. Individuals can be broken up into groups and then groups can be given one of the amounts above. **If you just found out you had the amount of money, what would you do with it? Would anything change if you knew that God gave you the money and would hold you accountable for every**

cent?

What do the talents signify? The talents are the gifts that God has bestowed upon us. There are three kinds of talents: “the gifts of nature; as for example a keen intellect, a ready wit, a good memory, science and skill, as also health, strength and beauty; the gifts of grace; which are inspiration and enlightenment, faith, hope, charity, and other virtues; finally, the gift of miracles; the apostolate and pastorship, the power of discerning spirits, the gift of prophecy, of healing, of tongues, etc.”[1]

In the area of nature, which of the following talents have we used for the Glory of God? Intellect, Wit (good humor), Memory, Science, Skill, Health, Strength, Beauty. How does the evil one, Satan attempt to destroy these talents?

In the area of grace, what is inspiration and enlightenment? Inspiration can come from the Holy Spirit, our guardian angels or even other people. This is encouragement to do what is good and pleasing to God. Enlightenment is when we come to a realization or understanding, we “get it”. God is a mystery and this mystery is always being revealed to us. Enlightenment is when we understand a little more of the mystery of God and even when we are able to share this understanding with others.

What are the virtues? Which virtues have we used for the Glory of God? The cardinal virtues, which are common to all humans, are prudence (knowing right and wrong); justice (giving others what they are rightly due); temperance (using correctly and in moderation, that which is pleasing to our senses) and fortitude (courage to do what is good in the midst of difficulties and even persecution). The theological virtues, which are common to those who are baptized, are faith, hope and charity. The theological virtues help us to love God; the cardinal virtues help us to love our neighbor.

Which of the gifts have I used for the glory of God? The apostolate and pastorship is the continuation of the work of Christ. Christ is prophet, priest and king. **How well do we teach others about Christ and His Church?** This teaching can be through example and words. We can offer sacrifice through our prayers and fasting and by uniting our prayers with the liturgy (Divine Liturgy which is the Mass and the Liturgy of the

speaks of leading people out of the desert. This desert is similar to the ground that the talents are buried in. During the Year of Faith, we must unearth our talents, loose our fears and trust in God’s mercy and grace.

In what ways is sharing the Faith with others risky?

LINK – Everywhere and Always

http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/apost_letters/documents/hf_ben-xvi_apl_20100921_ubicumque-et-semper_en.htm

Read this document written by the Holy Father Emeritus on the establishment of the new pontifical council for promoting the new evangelization. If we live this document out, talents everywhere and always will cease to be buried, but rather shared with the whole world regardless of the risk.

Why did the servant bury the talent? What keeps him from investing it? It was not uncommon for people at that time to bury money. It is similar to those who hid their money under their mattress back in the 1930’s. The third man keeps from investing out of fear of the master’s anger. It is true that the owner is a demanding one[13], but he also expected something rather than nothing. In the responsorial psalm, the refrain is “Blessed are those who fear the Lord”. (Ps 128) Fear of the Lord is one of the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit and helps “confirm the virtue of hope and impels a man to a profound respect for the majesty of God.”[14] If the servant had respect for his master, “he could at least have invested the sum with money lenders, who gave an excellent rate of interest in NT [New Testament] times.”[15]

What if we fail when we take a risk? We can never fail if we truly use our talents in charity. Our talents are God’s talents, and if we use them but are rejected, then they are rejecting God. When we die, Jesus will look to see how we used our talents. If we used everything we could and those around us denied them, He will still show mercy to us. Many times it takes courage to step out of our comfort zone and stretch our selves. The servant who buried his talent was too afraid to even try. We, on the other hand, should never be afraid to use our God given talents.

“One of the greatest Catholic thinkers of the 20th century was a Swiss priest named Hans Urs von Balthasar. He once pointed out that one of the most frequently used words in the book of

talents will gain from it.

Why does Jesus call the third servant lazy? The third servant used a petty excuse of the Master's anger to justify the fact that he was being lazy, putting the talent into the ground, acting as if it was his to keep. The opposite of laziness is diligence. The Latin root of diligence is 'diligere', to love, to choose after careful study.[11]

"Man was created to know, love and serve God in this life. Then he is to see him and possess him in Heaven. When God is known well, it is not hard to love him. And when God is truly loved, it is not difficult to serve him. Nor is it humiliating. In fact, it even becomes a pleasure to serve him. A person who truly loves does not even think that it is degrading and dishonorable to serve his beloved. He never feels humiliated while serving the one he loves. Now then, the third servant knew his master well. At least he had as many opportunities to know him as the other two servants had. And in spite of that it is obvious that he did not love him. And when love is missing, serving becomes very difficult." [12]

Why should we take risks? When we are given so much, more is expected from us. This was not the first time Jesus said this. "To anyone who has, more will be given and he will grow rich; from anyone who has not, even what he has will be taken away." (Mat. 13:12) God gives more and less of His grace and the gifts He wants us to use to build His Kingdom. When we are afraid of giving ourselves to God and neighbor, God will not want to give us more because He knows we will just squander it.

VIDEO - Pope announces a coming "Year of Faith" - POP CULTURE CONNECTION - 1:22

<http://youtu.be/WhMlb1kalu>

In our "What is the ground that we bury our talent in?" The ground is our fear. It is fear that will keep us from telling others about Christ and His Church. In the Entrance Antiphon God says He will bring us back from the lands that we are help captive. Fear holds us captive. If we bury our talents, we are held captive and it is only God that can bring us back from this captivity.

We are called to Evangelize. Several years ago, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI called for a Year of Faith, which was centered on the New Evangelization. In the video the Holy Father Emeritus

Hours). When we help govern our life by living morally and we inspire others to live a moral life, we continue the kingly ministry of Christ. We are called to this apostolate and pastorship by our baptism. It is through our baptism that we are united to the Body of Christ, He is the head and we are the members.

What is the power of discerning spirits? There are good spirits (angels and the goodness found within the human spirit) and there are bad spirits (demons and the evil found with the human spirit). Discernment of spirits gives us a sense of when a person or situation is either good or bad. The gift of counsel, a gift of the Holy Spirit is part of this. In other words we could call this a spiritual "warning". This is not just a warning when something or someone is evil but also helps us to bring out the good in others, if and when we sense a good spirit. This gift helps us give the necessary encouragement to others to do the good we see in them.

What is the gift of prophecy? Through our baptism we are all called to be prophets, to speak the Word of God. As we know, God is eternal and Jesus is the Eternal Word. Since God's word is eternal, speaking the word of God can be prophetic in the sense that we are speaking of things to come in the future. Pope Paul VI spoke prophetically when he spoke of the dangers of misusing our sexuality. He predicted very accurately what would happen if we as a society accepted birth control. Many times we heard the Holy Father, priests and lay people speak in a "warning" tone. We also may speak in this way as if saying, "if you do this, this will happen." We can only know this through the inspiration of the Eternal Word of God, which is Jesus Christ and is the Holy Spirit. This is not predicting the future or even fortune telling but rather sharing the Eternal Word of God.

What is the gift of healing? We have met plenty of people that have the gift of healing both the body and the soul. Surgeons, nurses, counselors, priests have a gift to heal the body and soul. The Saints in heaven as well as those on earth have asked for God's healing of others through prayers, fasting and sacrifice alone, of tongues, etc. And what greater healing is there than to be absolved of one's sins by a priest in the confessional. The important thing to realize about the gifts of miracles is that they are from God. The individual is just a vessel, an instrument. This is also the case of natural gifts and gifts of grace. All gifts are a sharing in the Divine Life, using the talents that God has

given for His glory.

What is the gift of tongues? Speaking in tongues is the gift of speaking so as to be understood by all (as happened on Pentecost), and the corresponding ability of hearers to understand a person speaking in a foreign tongue. St. Paul describes a different gift of tongues in the early Church, namely talking in unintelligible speech, but he viewed it with suspicion when those who had the charism lacked the ability to explain what they were saying (1 Corinthians 14:1-40).[2]

Who is the man going into the country supposed to be? The man going into the far country is Jesus Christ, “who by His ascension into heaven has left earth, but will come again at the judgment.”[3]

How does God distribute these talents? God distributes His gifts in different ways, by His unlimited power as Lord of all. To one He gives much, to another less. If one receives much, he must not become faint-hearted, but work with that, which he has received, according to his ability, for the honor of God, the good of his neighbor, and the salvation of his own soul. God does not require more than this, but He certainly expects more from him who has received much, than from him who has received little.[4]

MOVIE - Spiderman - POP CULTURE CONNECTION - 2:22

http://youtu.be/_5d6rTQcU2

The main theme of the Spiderman franchise is “with great power comes great responsibility.” The Gospel reading reveals another way to say this: “to everyone who has, more will be given and he will be given...” (Mt. 25:29) We are given so much by God; if we do not take advantage of it, then we can fail our Lord.

Why does God give five talents to one servant, two talents for another, and only one talent to the last servant? God does not want to burden us with the same amount of responsibilities as everyone else. Those who have five talents have worked faithfully with the gifts that God has given them. They deserve equal praise and are equally rewarded for their fidelity by the householder. God does not judge the extent of the merits, but His merciful eye regards our good will, obedience, diligence, and the obstacles under which we labor.

How is giving someone five talents and another only one

not come at all. He will come, you know not when; and provided he finds you prepared, your ignorance of the time of his coming will not be held against you.”

What would we do if we were told when we were to die? Both Saint Aloysius and Blessed Seelos knew they were going to die young. Saint Aloysius, who was only in his early twenties when he died and Blessed Seelos knew they would die soon, but did not stop living, rather they lived even more to the full. “In 1590, Saint Aloysius, suffering from his kidney problems and other ailments, received a vision of the Archangel Gabriel, who told him that he would die within a year. When a plague broke out in Rome in 1591, Saint Aloysius volunteered to work with plague victims, and he contracted the disease in March.”[8 Blessed Seelos, an American Saint, who was a missionary from Germany, did not see a vision but knew that he would die; yet this knowledge of death did not keep him from serving the Lord or loosing hope. “On September 27, 1866, he [Blessed Seelos] began his last journey for the Lord, to New Orleans, Louisiana. As he was traveling on the train to New Orleans, a nun asked him how long he would be stationed in New Orleans. His reply was “I will be there for one year, and then I will die of the Yellow Fever”, which is exactly what happened.”[9]

There is a saying, “Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, and today is a gift. That’s why they call it the present”. We may not know when the end of our life will be, but “Let us make use of the time we have to make ready. How happy He will be to find us alert and on the watch! My Lord, we will tell him, I have lived my life for your glory and nothing else.”[10]

How do we use our time? Are we punctual and orderly in our work? When we are at home, do we give our full attention to family matters? Are we striving to extend the Kingdom of Christ to all souls?

Risk Taking – Lesson and Discussion

“Should you not then have put my money in the bank”

The Gospel reading had to do with investing and taking risks. The two servants went out and traded with the money they were given, taking some risks, while the third was fearful and did not even try. With our spiritual talents, if we truly love God, we need to be willing to take a “risk” and share our talents with others. As we find out, those who take the “risk” with their spiritual

<http://youtu.be/6m-9UlikwZ>

In our culture, when we hear of “a new lease on life”, it is when someone has gone through a tragedy and is given a second chance. We receive our second chances when we go to Confession. The cool thing is the dad looks at his son as a baseball player just like every other youth on the team. Whether we have one or one million talents, God looks at how we use them just the same. **If the boy had been unable to play, would that have taken away his talents?**

What are we to do with the time we have? Since we have little time here on this planet, we must make the most of each and every day. The parable helps show us how we are judged based on what we do with our time. This is exactly what the Church teaches about faith and works. We are judged by our love and thanksgiving for the time we have, and we show our appreciation by the actions we take for the Kingdom of God. As James says, “So also faith of itself, if it does not have works is dead.” (James 2:17) He goes on to ask to see someone who just has faith, and he would show you the people who have been welcomed into heaven for their faith and works. The Gospel reading shows two servants, who had faith in the master and worked to invest his money, while the third lacked faith and did nothing.

Time is one of the greatest gifts that we have been given and our own time “our life” has been entrusted to us. “When a Christian kills time on this earth, he is putting himself in danger of ‘killing Heaven’ for himself; that is, if through selfishness, he backs out of things and hides away and doesn’t care.”[6]

What about the future? Since our time here is so short and precious, we can fall into the temptation to try and hold fast to the future. The problem is, holding onto future time is like trying to peer through darkness. We have no clue what the future holds. We should try and put our focus on the present and what we can control. “The same counsel applies to our approach to present-day difficulties. They should not rob us of our peace.”[7]

The spiritual reading also deals with not having anxieties because we already know our fate; we will see Jesus again, whether at His second coming, or when we die. “But I wish you to be without anxiety. He who is without anxiety waits without fear until his Lord comes. He will come whether we wish it or not. Do not think that because he is not coming just now, he will

talent fair? God is fair in that He gives all of us exactly what we need. He also gives everyone an equal chance at salvation. We are all given the same task. In fact, it can be harder for the person with five talents because they are asked to do more with it. As we read in the Gospel, however, this is a “small matter” compared to what God has in store for us. Instead of worrying about whether someone has too many or too little talents, we should focus on our personal talents and how are we going to use them. If we feel there is someone, who does not have enough, we can use our talents to help them. On the other hand, if we feel that we have too few, trust in the Lord that He has given us exactly what we need for our salvation. If we serve Him well with what little we have, He will give us more.

Saint Therese asked the same question in regards to talents and her sister, Pauline, gave her the cup analogy. “One day I expressed surprise that God does not give an equal amount of glory to all the elect in Heaven—I was afraid that they would not all be quite happy. She sent me to fetch Papa’s big tumbler, and put it beside my tiny thimble, then, filling both with water, she asked me which seemed the fuller. I replied that one was as full as the other—it was impossible to pour more water into either of them, for they could not hold it. In this way Pauline made it clear to me that in Heaven the least of the Blessed does not envy the happiness of the greatest; and so, by bringing the highest mysteries down to the level of my understanding, she gave my soul the food it needed.”[5] Each of us is like a cup, some small, some large. We should not be so concerned about whether we are small or large. We should be concerned whether we are full. **Are we using the gifts God has given to the full?**

Who does the servant who buried the talent signify? Those who, whether in high or humble position, make no use of God’s gifts, and will, therefore, be deprived of them at the Last Day, and be cast into hell.

What is the master’s joy? Jesus tells us that He shares in our joy because we have gained salvation. When we are His faithful servants, we will find eternal joy with Him in heaven, the eternal banquet with Him.

Where does the third servant go? The third servant is cast into the darkness of Hell. The image of wailing and grinding of teeth is frequently used in Matthew’s gospel (cf. Mt. 8:11-12), and the message of Jesus is crystal clear; if we wish to enjoy the banquet

feast with Him, we must be willing to use every talent that God gives us, or face the consequences.

What is the Master's judgment a symbol of? Jesus condemns the servant with one talent not because he did not earn the same amount or more than the others, but He judged him personally and individually. When we die and go to our immediate judgment, Jesus will not judge us according to another person's scale or how better or worse we were compared to others, but will judge us based upon how much we used the talents God bestowed upon us.

A Lease on Life - Lesson and Discussion

"After a long time the master of those servants came back"

We have a lease arrangement. However, we do not know how long this lease will last. In the second reading, Paul talks about not knowing when our time will come, that it will come, "like a thief in the night" (1 Thess. 5:1-6) without warning. In the spiritual reading, Saint Augustine also speaks of the shortness of life. "My brethren, the appointed time is short... and those who deal with this world as though they had no dealing with it. For the form of this world is passing away."

Scripture tells us that we must use our time well, because life is short. "The breath in our nostrils is smoke... Our life will pass away like the traces of a cloud and be scattered like mist that is chased by the rays of the sun and overcome by its heat." (Wisdom 2:2-4) "Man is like a breath, his days are like passing shadow," (Psalm 143:4) "He comes forth like a flower, and withers; he flees like a shadow and continues not." (Job 14:2)

Was Jesus talking about material wealth in the Gospel

reading? No, the parable was about the qualities that God gives us; our intelligence, our ability to love, our power to make others happy, temporal goods, and how we use these things while we have the time to develop and share these talents. It is good to point out that with the money, talents, and qualities God gives to us, it is not good to just store them up for the future. What good is it to have lots of money, then die the next day and not use the wealth for good? The same can be said of our God given talents; we should use them to help spread the kingdom, rather than keep them hidden or worse, never use them like the third servant.

We must look at our life as stewards, who have been entrusted with a certain amount of talents. Jesus tells us over and over that all we have is not our own, but has been given by God. We have been entrusted with God's talents and property, and one day, God will take into account how we used them.

What does it mean that God has entrusted us with talents?

To entrust is to give someone a special responsibility or duty and to trust them in accomplishing what is given. When we say that God entrusted us with talents, we are saying that God trusts us, and expects us to do what He is calling us to do and to use what it is that He is giving us. When parents entrust their children to a babysitter they are giving the babysitter a duty and responsibility and trusting that sitter with their children's lives.

One of the components of a Sacrament is that the Sacraments are entrusted to the Church by Jesus. A Sacrament is an outward physical sign of an inner spiritual grace, all the Sacraments were instituted by Jesus and entrusted to the Church. **What does it mean that the Sacraments were entrusted to the Church? How can we safeguard, protect and cherish the Sacraments?**

We are also entrusted with many graces; the gifts of the Holy Spirit are given to us at Baptism and strengthened in Confirmation. We are given the gifts of Fortitude that strengthens us to do the will of God in all things despite fear and obstacles. Wisdom, which gives us a longing and love for the things of God and directs our whole life and all our actions to His honor and Glory; Understanding enables us to know more clearly the mystery of faith. Knowledge, which enables us to discover the will of God in all things (what should I do?); Piety, which makes us love God as a Father and obey Him because we love Him. This helps us to have reverence and to pray well (As we pray, we believe); Fear of the Lord which fills us with a dread of sin, and a dread of offending, hurting God and others through our sin; Counsel which warns us of the deceits of the devil and of the dangers to our salvation.

Activity - Gifts of the Holy Spirit Survey

http://www.linktoliturgy.com/documents/Pentecost_Pack_giftsoftheHolySpirit.survey.pdf

VIDEO - Teen has new lease on life - POP CULTURE CONNECTION - 2:15