

# 33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time – November 14/15, 2020 – Reflection

“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.”

From the Gospel According to St. Matthew

Jesus weaves a story that tells us much about how generous God is to us. God, though He may seem absent from our lives, and though we may be absent from His, is never really very far away, and our loving Father longs to give us His children gifts and talents to be used for the building up of His Kingdom on earth, the Church. But though He showers each of us with blessings and talents, many of us don't realize how much we've been given, how much good we could do if we just used our God-given talents instead of letting them rust from neglect and go to waste.

Several years ago, someone shared with me a little story with a moral that I've since used many times at weddings in talking to brides and grooms about what they may be getting themselves into. Jesus spoke many times about the Kingdom of God His Father being like a wedding banquet where Christ is the Bridegroom and we, the Church, are the Bride. Perhaps this little story will help flesh out just what it is our Father offers each of us.

A woman came out of her house and saw three old men with long white beards sitting in her front yard. She did not recognize them. She said,

"I don't think I know you, but you must be hungry. Please come in and have something to eat."

"Is your husband home?", they asked.

"No", she said. "He's out."

"Then, out of respect, we cannot come in," they replied.

Throughout the day, the old men sat still in the yard. The woman went about her tasks, but every now and again, she would bring them a cool drink or a little snack.

In the evening when her husband came home, she told him all that happened during the day. "Go tell them I am home, and invite them in!"

The woman went out and invited the men in.

"We do not go into a house together," they replied.

"Why is that," she wanted to know.

One of the old men explained, "His name is Wealth," he said, pointing to one of his friends, and said, pointing to another one, "He is Success, and I am Love." Then he added, "Now go in and discuss with your husband which one of us you want in your home."

The woman went in and told her husband what was said. Her husband was overjoyed. "How nice!" he said. "Since that is the case, let us invite Wealth. Let him come in and fill our home with wealth!"

His wife disagreed. "My dear, why don't we invite Success, then everything we touch will bear fruit and we will be respected and admired!"

Back and forth they discussed and debated: Wealth or Success; Success or Wealth. At last, they were silent for a few moments. Then, at once, they both said, "Would it not be better to invite Love, then our home will be filled with love!"

The husband said to his wife, "Go out, dear, and invite Love to be our guest."

The woman went out and asked the three old men, "Please sirs, which one of you is Love? We want you to come in and be our guest."

Love got up and started walking toward the house. The other two also got up and followed him. Surprised, the woman asked Wealth and Success, "I only invited Love, but why are you coming in?"

The old men replied together, "If you had invited Wealth or Success, the other two of us would've stayed out, but since you invited Love, wherever He goes, we go with him. Wherever there is Love, there is also Wealth and Success."

God has offered you wondrous gifts and talents in your life, for, God is Love, and the one who abides in Love abides in God and God in that one.

If you use your gifts to spread love, then you will be a wonderful success as an ambassador for Christ and wealthy in the blessings of the Lord beyond any riches you could ever imagine!