

QUESTION OF THE WEEK
with Sunday Scripture Readings
The 33rd Ordinary Sunday
November 15, 2020

STEP ONE: Listen to the Word

For Faith Sharing—Gospel [Matthew 25:14-30](#)

Theme: Jesus calls us to use our natural gifts for the kingdom of God.

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.'"

QUESTION 1: When you hear this familiar teaching of Jesus, what lingers in your mind? What touches your heart? What challenges you?

STEP TWO: Look into Your Life

QUESTION 2: (for children): Name one talent or gift that God has given you and tell how you have used it.

QUESTION 3 (for youth): Name three talents that you have. How can you use these talents in the next week to make someone's life better?

QUESTION 4 (for adults): Using Jesus' parable as a starting point, describe in your own words how you are using your own gifts to enrich the reign of God.

Reading I: [Proverbs 31:10-13,19-20,30-31](#)

When one finds a worthy wife, her value is far beyond pearls. Her husband, entrusting his heart to her, has an unfailing prize. She brings him good, and not evil, all the days of her life. She obtains wool and flax and works with loving hands. She puts her hands to the distaff, and her fingers ply the spindle. She reaches out her hands to the poor, and extends her arms to the needy. Charm is deceptive and beauty fleeting; the woman who fears the LORD is to be praised. Give her a reward for her labors, and let her works praise her at the city gates.

Reading II: I [Thessalonians 5:1-6](#)

Concerning times and seasons, brothers and sisters, you have no need for anything to be written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief at night. When people are saying, "Peace and security," then sudden disaster comes upon them, like labor pains upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness, for that day to overtake you like a thief. For all of you are children of the light and children of the day. We are not of the night or of darkness. Therefore, let us not sleep as the rest do, but let us stay alert and sober.

[* The Scripture readings are from *The New American Bible*.]

HNJ MISSION STATEMENT: Jesus calls us, the Catholic community at Holy Name of Jesus Parish, graced by the Holy Spirit, to invite all people to experience the living and loving presence of Christ by nurturing the spiritual growth of all our members through energetic celebration of the sacraments, especially the Eucharist, daily prayer, lifelong study of our faith, witness, service and hospitality.

OVERVIEW OF TODAY'S READINGS

The Gospel: A "talent" represents more than our modern definition of an inborn trait. Here it is a huge allotment of divine goods that God entrusts to Jesus' disciples. The first two double their talents and hear the exuberant "Well done" of the master. But Jesus talks the longest about the one talent servant because most Christians are like him. He wants to jar them out of their complacency and persuade them to work for the kingdom that he assigns them. They will be severed from the Lord's joy for all eternity because they did not work for the Lord on earth.

The First Reading: This text is spoken by the queen mother to her son the king offering him sage advice. To counter the images of women as objects of little value, she makes attractive the notion of finding a worthy wife who is more valuable than pearls and who brings good all the days of her life. In addition to working tirelessly with loving hands to clothe her family, she also extends her palms to the poor, welcoming them and offering the needy aid.

The Second Reading: In these closing weeks of the liturgical year this reading calls the faithful to readiness when the time of judgment and accountability for how they lived their lives arrives. This reading evokes a response to the question: **What will I give back to the Lord and his people for all that he has done for me?**