

2020 November 15

Thirty-third Sunday of the Ordinary Time

Readings:

First: Proverbs 31.10.13, 16- 20, 26-31, "A woman who fears the Lord is to be praised." (30b)

Psalms 128, "Blessed is everyone who fears the Lord, who walks in his ways." (1)

Second: 1 Thessalonians 5.1-6, "You are all children of light and children of the day." (5a)

Gospel: Mathew 25.14-30, "To all those who have, more will be given." (29a)

Children of light, and day

St. Paul compliments the Thessalonians telling them that they are children of light and of day. Since they are so, they are safe and are not to fear the uncertainties of darkness and of the future. Jesus connects hard work and industriousness with rewards, and laziness with punishment. The given talents are the tools with which we have to toil and qualify for the rewards. There is no one among us who is not talented.

We have to accept and be happy rather than be envious that talents are distributed unequally and differently to different people. St. Paul in his teaching on the Holy Spirit tells that there are varieties of gifts, services and activities. All these originate from the same Spirit. To each is given differently in order to build up the Church, the Body of Christ. *"To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good."* Among these gifts of God include wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, working of miracles, prophesy, discernment of spirits, kinds of tongues, interpretation of tongues, etc. *"All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses."* (1. Corinthians 12.4-11).

Paul interprets the talents distributed to different servants as the gifts and bounties of the Holy Spirit for the building up of the Church. The more one works with the given talents the greater he/she becomes proficient, contributing to the common good. If any one does not work with the given gifts and talents, to that extent the body of Christ becomes weak and inefficient. The latter are the ones the master depicted as lazy, and are destined eventually to be thrown into the outer darkness. All the reasons the lazy one brings up for his inaction are alibies and lame excuses. He was fooling himself only.

Those among us who shut our eyes toward the everyday happening of the manifestations of the creator God are also fooling ourselves. One of the gifts of the Spirit St. Paul refers to is discernment of the spirits. The most important spirit we need to discern in our everyday life is the Spirit of God. This Spirit, if at all we care for knowing him, will reveal to us the mind of God in the everyday happenings of the world and our own life, through which we discern the talents deposited in us and enabled to work with them and work on them! The people whom we meet on our journey may have serious and life-changing messages from the Spirit. The everyday happenings and events and the other pedestrians we meet on our way may be pointers to us to God's call for the day or for life.

Fr. George

