

## Got Talent?

The ongoing pandemic has tested our lives beyond words.

It has also challenged people to think, act and work in new and different ways:

-The 40-year veteran of the restaurant industry on the North Shore who is putting her hospitality skills into creating a food delivery service.

-My cousin in Montreal who has discovered that almost half of her co-workers *prefer* working from home. So now, what do we do with all this unused office space?

-The parish nurse, three towns away, who in high school was voted "most talkative and chatty." Now she puts that "gift" to work by daily calls to seniors at risk of isolation.

The founding documents of our nation state that we are "all created equal" in regards to human rights. We are *not* equal in our abilities, however.

Life bestows different gifts, strengths and skills. There is a diversity to God's blessings. We are wired with different talents. Even a crisis can lead to new discoveries.

As my second grade teacher would remind us, *"We're all smart in different ways. Life teaches us to be smart in different ways."*

The three people in this Sunday's gospel were equipped with talents, "each according to their ability."

Those people are us (Matthew 25:14-30).

Our gifts may not be spectacular. Our abilities may not inspire fan clubs. We may even spend a lot of energy wishing for someone else's talent.

But what we have been given is for a purpose.

The great tragedy is not to have failed in attaining the "success" we aimed for. The tragedy is to have never risked anything; to have never cared deeply enough about anything or anyone.

God wants us to run with what we've been given. Allow your gift to become a blessing to others.

So, what is your "gift?"

Is it the ability to be a friend through the thick and thin?

Is it a knack for thinking "outside the box?"

Are you blessed with empathy in the face of pain?

Or, is it bridgebuilding where there is conflict?

Maybe you are equipped with good ears that not only hear but actually "listen" to what another person has to say?

Perhaps you are the soul who shares your neighbor's heavy burden in your prayerful heart.

Maybe you've got the grace to do hard work under stress.

You may be blessed with material wealth so as to alleviate the suffering of another.

Whatever your gift...allow it to become a blessing to others.

The comedienne and writer, Irma Bombeck, once said:

*When I stand before God at the end of my life, I would hope not to have one ounce of talent left and that I could say, ' See, I used everything that you gave me.'*

Pray that in both good times and bad, in both Ordinary Time and in extraordinary times, that we use everything that God has entrusted to us.

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