

BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

ST. MATTHEW



ST. MARK



2013

August 11, 2013

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Lectionary: 117

Gospel Lk 12:32-48

Jesus said to his disciples: "Do not be afraid any longer, little flock, for your Father is pleased to give you the kingdom. Sell your belongings and give alms. Provide money bags for yourselves that do not wear out, an inexhaustible treasure in heaven that no thief can reach nor moth destroy. For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be. "Gird your loins and light your lamps and be like servants who await their master's return from a wedding, ready to open immediately when he comes and knocks. Blessed are those servants whom the master finds vigilant on his arrival. Amen, I say to you, he will gird himself, have them recline at table, and proceed to wait on them. And should he come in the second or third watch and find them prepared in this way, blessed are those servants. Be sure of this: if the master of the house had known the hour when the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come." Then Peter said, "Lord, is this parable meant for us or for everyone?" And the Lord replied, "Who, then, is the faithful and prudent steward whom the master will put in charge of his servants to distribute the food allowance at the proper time? Blessed is that servant whom his master on arrival finds doing so. Truly, I say to you, the master will put the servant in charge of all his property. But if that servant says to himself, 'My master is delayed in coming,' and begins to beat the menservants and the maidservants, to eat and drink and get drunk, then that servant's master will come on an unexpected day and at an unknown hour and will punish the servant severely and assign him a place with the unfaithful. That servant who knew his master's will but did not make preparations nor act in accord with his will shall be beaten severely; and the servant who was ignorant of his master's will but acted in a way deserving of a severe beating shall be beaten only lightly. Much will be required of the person entrusted with much, and still more will be demanded of the person entrusted with more."

Spiritual Reflection:

God has given every one of us our own talents, skills and abilities - and God will call us accountable not for the breadth and depth of those gifts but for what we have done with those gifts for the sake of his kingdom. Some of us may possess the intellect to unlock the secrets of medical science, while some of us possess the hand and soul to create inspiring art. The fact is that God has entrusted each one of us with our own gifts, talents and blessings not for our own uses and aims but to selflessly and lovingly use them for the benefit of others, without counting the cost or demanding a return. The faithful disciple will lovingly use whatever he or she possesses to bring to reality God's reign of hope, justice and compassion in this time and place of ours.

Spiritual Questions

1. What talents do you have that God expects you to use?
2. How would Jesus evaluate your service to the Gospel at this point in your life?
3. How vigilant are you?
4. What is your vocation in life?
5. Are you a faithful disciple?

