Sunday Reading

A Reading from the Gospel of Matthew 25:14–30: The Parable of the Talents

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 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.’”

*USCCB note: The talent was a unit of coinage of high but varying value depending on its metal (gold, silver, copper) and its place of origin.
Focus Questions

1. How many talents does the man give to each of his three servants?
2. What did each servant do with the talents he was given?
3. What does the master say to the first two servants when he sees what they did with his money?
4. What does the master say the one servant who had buried the money in the ground should have done?
5. To whom does the master give the one talent?
6. What will be given to the one who has? What will happen to the one who has not?
Living a Life of Stewardship

Directions: Read the reflection and then answer the questions below.

Stewardship is defined as recognizing and receiving God's gifts and sharing those gifts in love of God and neighbor. We all hear the message of stewardship in our parishes every year. We know that it involves time, talent, and treasure. Stewardship is about way more than money. It is about recognizing the gifts God has given us, lovingly accepting those gifts and cultivating them, and then sharing them with others in order to glorify God and build up the Kingdom of God. While this does include money, it means much more. If you have the gift of athletic ability then it means practicing in order to get better, playing virtuously and to the best of your ability, and lending a hand to help someone improve. If you have musical talent it means practicing, getting involved in performance and then perhaps offering to cantor at your parish. How can you take the gifts God has given you and use them to build up His kingdom?

1. We all have special gifts, talents, and abilities. What are three gifts or abilities you possess?

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2. How do you use or perfect those gifts in your daily life?

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3. Do you use your gifts, talents, and abilities for others to build up the Kingdom of God? If so, how? If not, list a few ways you can share your gifts with others.

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4. Do you think it is possible that you have some gifts or talents you haven't yet discovered? Why or why not? What can you do in order to discover those gifts?

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5. What do you think will happen to your gifts, talents, and abilities if you do not use them? How does this relate to the line in the parable: “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.”

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