

## Getting Ready for Sunday!



## **Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**This is the second last week in ordinary time.**

**We are approaching the end of the liturgical year.**

**We are challenged to consider how we stand before God at the end of time, before the second coming.**

**We have been gifted by God with life, many talents and faith in His constant love, support, friendship and nurturance.**

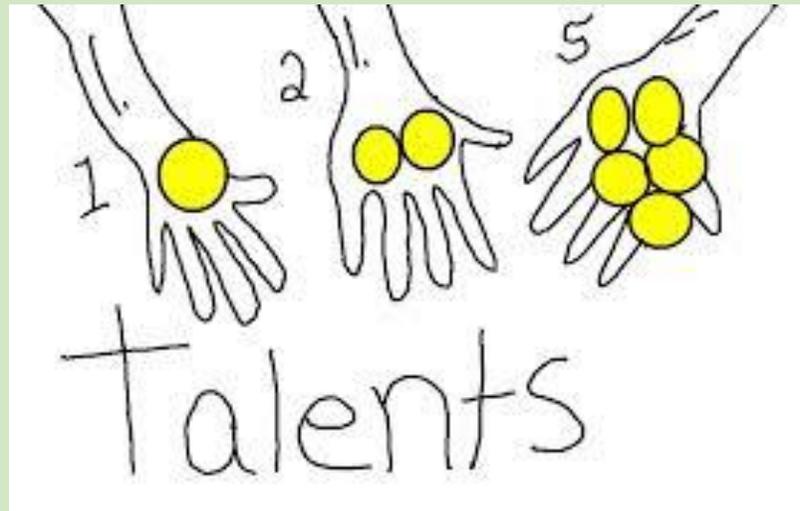
**Have we accepted all that has been given?**

**Have we used all gifts well?**

**Where are we in friendship with God?**

**How do we play our part?**

## Matthew 25:14-30



## The Parable of the Talents

**For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability.**

**Can you name some of the gifts and talents that God has given to you?**



**Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents.**



**When they started using their talents they discovered that they had many more that they had never realised before!**

**Have you been surprised to find that you had a talent that you didn't know about until recently?**

**But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.**



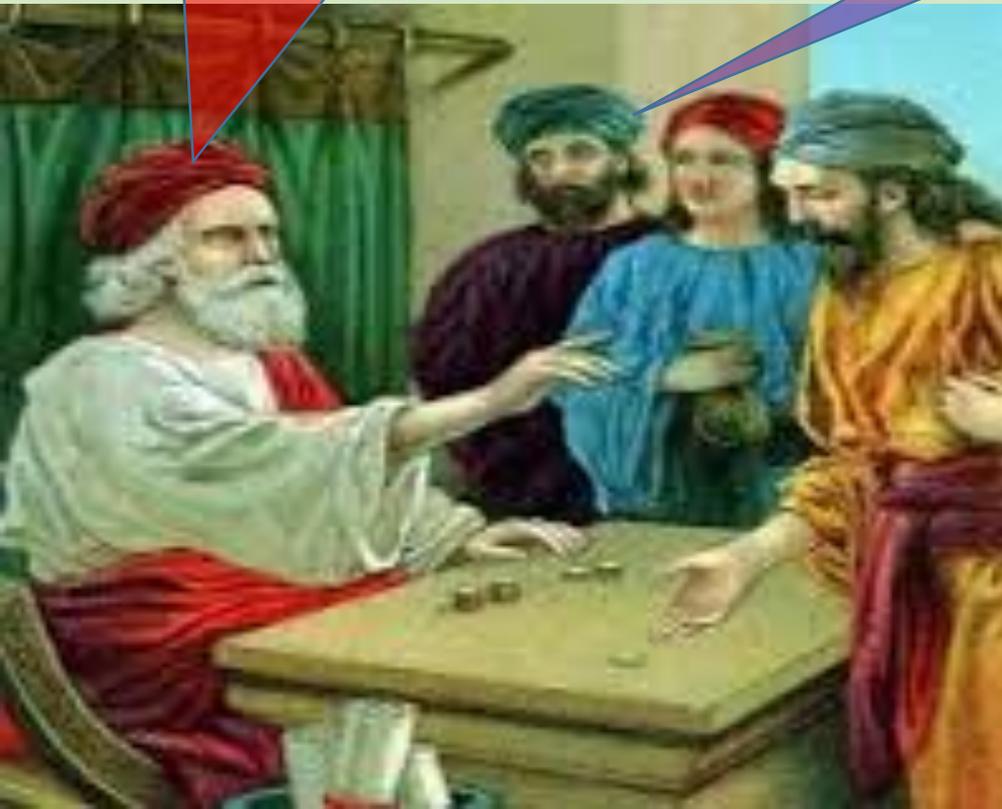
**Perhaps he was shy  
or afraid of not  
being the best, so  
he never bothered  
to try!**

**Do you hide your  
talents or not  
bother to use them?**

**After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents:**

*Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.*

*Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.*

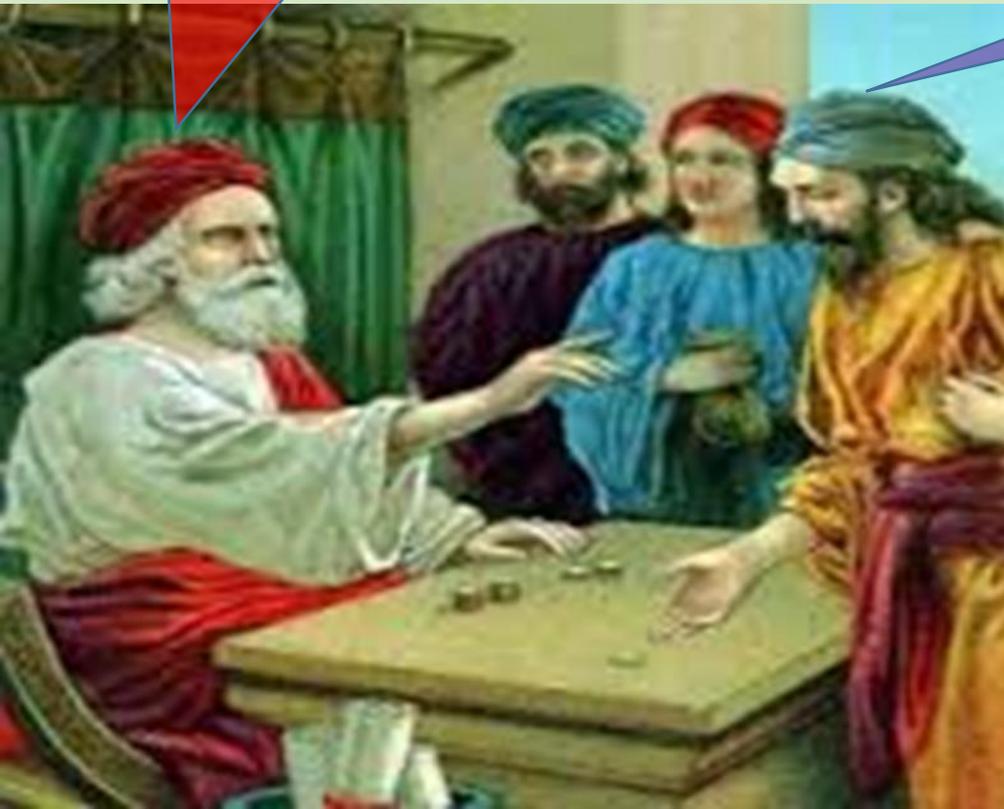


**Imagine the pleasure God our Father has in us when we use the gifts he has chosen to give each one of us!**

**And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying: His master said to him:**

*Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.*

*Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.*



**Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying,**

***Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.***



**How would you feel if you chose a special gift for a friend and they returned it to you because they had not bothered to try to use it?**

**But his master replied:**

***You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest.***



**Fear of failure is not a  
good reason not to  
try!**

***So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away.***



**It sometimes seems that others are given more opportunities and talents than seems fair! Perhaps they have simply worked hard with their gifts and learnt to take pleasure in them!**

***As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.***



**This slave created his own misery!**

**Can you stand before God and say that you have done your best?**

**How well do you use the great gift of faith in God who loves us, trusts us and invites us into friendship with Him?**

## Bible Search

Read **Matthew 25:14-30** in your family Bible-this is the Gospel reading at Mass this Sunday.



# SEEING YOUR LIFE THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPELS

## Matthew 25:14-30

**1 Jesus was angry at the way some Jewish leaders treated God's revelation of his love for his people. They had buried it by obscuring it under a multiplicity of rules. These became the centre of religious practice rather than a deep faith and trust in the forgiving love of God. What part have rules played for you in your life? Have they been life-giving?**

**2 On the level of our own personal life, faith is not given to us to be locked away, but to be 'traded' with. We trade with it when we believe in its value, trust it, and use it, bringing it into the experiences we have in daily life. Can you recall times when relying on your faith has brought you rewards?**

**3 Likewise with our own personal gifts and talents. We can fall into the trap of seeing these as our personal possession so that we can do with them as we like, rather than share them as gifts so that they can be multiplied. What is your experience of hoarding or sharing your own gifts? When did you feel most alive?**

**4 The master in the story is also someone we can celebrate. He is the kind of person who does not cling to power. He entrusts his property (his cause) to others. Perhaps you have known leaders who have done this? Have you done it yourself? As parents have you entrusted the lives of your children to them so that they can find life to the full by taking responsibility for their own lives?**

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Consider



**How well do you use the talents and gifts that  
God has given to you?**

## Praying to Jesus



**Pray for the grace to grateful for  
the gifts given to you..**

**Ask God to help you to live  
your life to full capacity.**

