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?

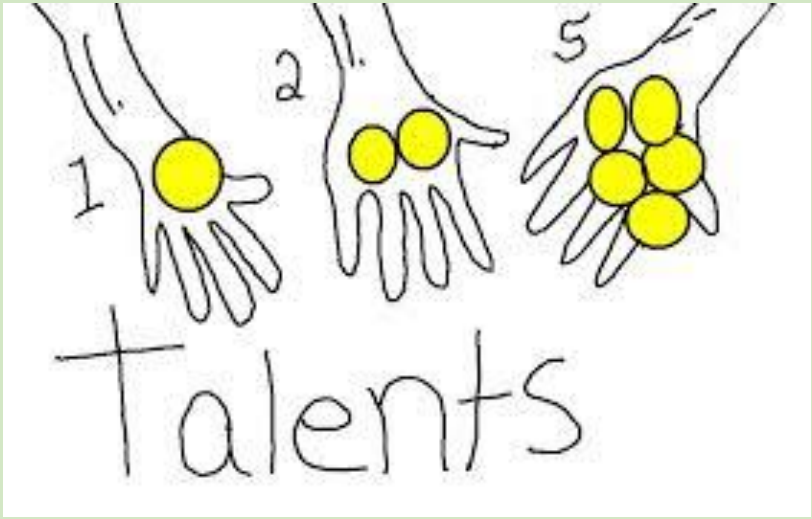
Where are we in friendship with God?

How do we play our part?



Matthew 25:14-30





The Parable of the Talents

Jesus spoke this parable to his disciples: '*The kingdom of Heaven is like a man on his way abroad who summoned his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to a third one; each in proportion to his ability.*



Consider
What are the talents that God has given to you?

Then he set out. The man who had received the five talents promptly went and traded with them and made five more. The man who had received two made two more in the same way



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



Consider

How well do we use the gifts and talents that we have been given?

‘Now a long time after, the master of those servants came back and went through his accounts with them. The man who had received the five talents came forward bringing five more. ‘His master said to him:

Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master’s happiness.



Sir, you entrusted me with five talents; here are five more that I have made.

Consider

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

Next the man with the two talents came forward.

Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master's happiness.

Sir, you entrusted me with two talents; here are two more that I have made.



Last came forward the man who had the one talent.

Sir, I had heard you were a hard man, reaping where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered; so I was afraid, and I went off and hid your talent in the ground. Here it is; it was yours, you have it back.



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 answered him:

You wicked and lazy servant! So you knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered? Well then, you should have deposited my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have recovered my capital with interest.



Consider

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

So now, take the talent from him and give it to the man who has the five talents. For to everyone who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough; but from the man who has not, even what he has will be taken away.



Consider

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 trust their ability and enjoy their gifts!

As for this good-for-nothing servant, throw him out into the dark, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.



Can we stand before God and say that we have done our 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?

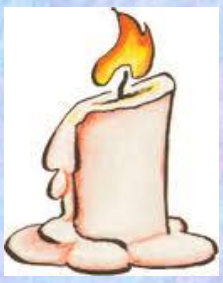
(Intercom November 2014) John Byrne OSA Email john@orlagh.ie

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.

