

Formed in Prayer

Let us be still
and ask the Holy Spirit to be with us.

Dear Father, be with us as we pray.
Open our ears to hear your Word in the Gospel.
Unite us in faith, hope and love as we pray together.
Send your Holy Spirit to inspire
and sustain us in our mission.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Gospel

Matthew 25:14-30

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. 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. 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. “Sir”, he said “you entrusted me with five talents; here are five more that I have made.” 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.” Next the man with the two talents came forward. “Sir,” he said “you entrusted me with two talents; here are two more that I have made.” 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.” Last came forward the man who had the one talent. “Sir,” said he “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.” 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. 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. As for this good-for-nothing servant, throw him out into the dark, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.”

*What words or phrases struck you in Sunday’s Gospel reading?
What might God be prompting you to consider or inviting you to do in and through the Gospel?*

Reflection

“Come and share your master’s happiness!” This parable gives us an opportunity to reflect on the invitation God provides through our role as Catholic leaders and educators. What is the invitation? It’s the same invitation the rich man gives to his servants - come and share your master’s happiness. For each of us, this happiness is the love and the mercy of God. What an invitation to receive! So how do we share in this happiness of God’s love and mercy? By doing as the servants did, opening ourselves to receive more and more of the master’s happiness, “for whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance”. God’s love and mercy is given to be shared, this was shown to us through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. The invitation is put to us now, to continue to witness to this by sharing this same love and mercy abundantly, in all that we do, to all whom we meet. *(Luke Maher, Catholic Education, Canberra and Goulburn)*

Turn over for final prayer

Thirty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

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Prayer

Lord,
Open our hearts and minds to the invitation you have placed before us.
Through the power of the Holy Spirit, help us to accept your love and mercy
and to grow and share it abundantly with those we serve
through our vocations and ministries every day
so that they too may share in your happiness!
Amen.

