

### 33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time A

Today's gospel is the 2nd of **3 consecutive passages** from MT read on the **last 3 Sunday's** liturgical year  
ALL of them are about **Final Coming of Jesus**

Last week – **Wise & Foolish Virgins** (be ready, for you do not know day or hour)

This week – **Parable of Talents** (telling us how to use God's gifts as we wait for JC)

Next week – **Last Judgment** (what measures God will use to judge mankind)

#### **WHO Jesus is talking to in all 3 readings is important**

He's talking to **disciples** NOT the crowds NOT the Pharisees

JC is teaching **to his friends – those that are committed to Him** (*Hopefully He is talking to US*)

#### **WHEN these lessons take place is also important**

It's a critical time in His ministry – **just before His passion**

**His final teachings** are about **how they should act as they await His coming.**

He is telling those He loves about how they should go about their ministries

He is passing on His mission to those who will eventually spread it worldwide

In today's parable – The master goes on a journey and leaves 3 servants some money

One gets 5 talents, one gets 2, the other 1 – WHY DIFFERENT AMOUNTS?

**The amount they get is based on his ability** (*Never more than we can handle*)

**The first two go out and double their money**

The third buries it – Why? ("fearing the master")

When the master returns he praises the first two as "good and faithful servants"

**He promises greater responsibilities & invites them to share his joy**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> is condemned as **worthless and lazy** and thrown out into darkness

What separated the first two from the third? Ability to some extent – **but they all had ability**

What separated them was **what they were willing to do** with the money

To be **industrious, and imaginative** – to work it to make it grow

They were willing to **take risks to serve their master well.**

Jesus is teaching his disciples – His friends – that He expects them to be industrious & imaginative in their service to Him as they await His return

To do His will

To draw closer to Him

To draw others to Him too

NB → The master doesn't tell servants the details of what He wants them to do

Jesus doesn't tell his disciples exactly what they should do

Instead, *Jesus depends on His disciple to be creative and be alert to opportunities*

AND there WILL be opportunities

- No two of us has exactly the same opportunities to carry on the mission
- We are different people with different spouses, children, jobs, skills
- We have different coworkers, friends and different neighbors
- BUT each of us has been given unique abilities and traits that enable us to be instruments of grace to those around us – to continue Jesus' mission on earth

The master trusted his servants with money

God trusts us with much more than that – He trusts us with doing His work on earth

Through us God is able to harvest where He did not plant & gather where He did not scatter.

When we have the opportunity – we are to use the gifts God has given to do good

There is always the danger that Jesus' disciples might not recognize these opportunities.

They might be afraid and see risk of failure, ridicule, rejection and alienation as too great

This refusal to take risks was the cause of the 3<sup>rd</sup> servant's failure

We should

(1) pray for grace to recognize opportunities when they come

(2) have the courage to take risks necessary to grow the KOG

That God might recognize US as **Good and faithful servants who will share His joy when He returns**