

Take 2 with Jesus

Daily Reflections in the Sunday Gospel

Week beginning Sunday 15th November

Jesus challenges us to use our gifts.

This week's reflections are based on the Gospel reading for the 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A Mt 25:14-30. Further reflections on this Gospel can be found at <http://www.prayasyoucan.com.au/sunday/show/554/gospel>.

Sunday

*Jesus said,
'The kingdom of God is like a man who summoned his servants
and entrusted his property to them.
To one he gave five talents, another two... each in proportion to his ability.
(Mt 25:14-15)*

The amounts given to each of these servants were exorbitant: more than enough seed money for each to start a venture. What Jesus is telling us is that all of us, even the seemingly least qualified, have been given more than enough to be able to share the love of God generously and creatively.

Loving Jesus, give me an open and grateful attitude so that I realise what blessings you have given me.

Pray the words that Jesus taught us...Our Father, who art in heaven...

Continue your prayer through this day by seeing what has been entrusted to your care.

Monday

*Jesus continued,
'The man who had received the five talents promptly went
and traded with them and made five more.'
(Mt 25:16)*

Can't you just feel this man's pride and excitement: he had been given a chance to show what he was made of...and he rewarded his master's trust abundantly! Can't you just feel his joy! Over and again in life, God is giving us opportunities and chances to show off what we are made of.

Loving Jesus, let me recognise the talents you have given me and the opportunities that come my way for using these talents to bring life and love to the people around me.

Pray the words that Jesus taught us...Our Father, who art in heaven...

Continue your prayer through this day by finding opportunities in your daily life for using the talents you have been given.

Tuesday

*Jesus continued,
'His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant, you have shown you can be faithful in
small things. . . come and share in your master's happiness."
(Mt 25: 21)*

Our various gifts and talents are given us not just for ourselves, not just to share with others but to help us 'to grow up to salvation' as Irenaeus of Lyons has said. We need to grow into sharing the joy and happiness of God and we do this by using the gifts we have been given.

Loving Jesus, show me how using my gifts and talents helps me grow in your grace and love and prepares me to live in your joy.

Pray the words that Jesus taught us...Our Father, who art in heaven...

Continue your prayer through this day by noting what things you do give you a sense of well-being and happiness.

Wednesday

Jesus continued,

'Last came the man with one talent. "Sir" he said, "I had heard you were a hard man, reaping where you had not sown...so I was afraid..."'

(Mt 25:24-25)

How much did this man's fear form his judgement of his master? He then used that judgement to justify his own lack of initiative or his laziness! Fear can so easily warp how we view others, and then it can stultify what we might expect from ourselves.

Loving Jesus, let me see and understand what I am fearful about. May your Holy Spirit open wide my mind and heart and give me the courage to live life to the full.

Pray the words that Jesus taught us...Our Father, who art in heaven...

Continue your prayer through this day by naming the areas in your life where you need the courage of the Spirit to grow.

Thursday

The man with the one talent continued, '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.'

(Mt 25:25)

How deadening! Was it fear, or was it really laziness that led this man to do so little. He is so closed in on himself that he has no intention of changing...and what can the master do with such a person. He is condemned because he has no intention whatsoever of embracing change or of growing.

Loving Jesus, let me accept the challenge of change when it comes in my life and let me be prepared to grow even though it may be, at times, difficult and challenging.

Pray the words that Jesus taught us...Our Father, who art in heaven...

Continue your prayer through this day by naming some areas in your life where you may be too set in your ways.

Friday

The master replied,

'You wicked and lazy servant. . . . You should have deposited my money with the bankers and, on my return, I would have recovered my capital with interest.'

(Mt 25:26-27)

Seriously, depositing the money was the least he could have done. But sometimes, because we can't do something great and marvellous, we fail to do the small deeds we are capable of doing. It is a good exercise to list the simple 'talents' we have, e.g. driving, and see how we could serve others with them.

Loving Jesus, give me the creativity and courage to step up and offer to help, no matter how small the deed.

Pray the words that Jesus taught us...Our Father, who art in heaven...

Continue your prayer through this day by making a list of your talents, starting with the smallest.

Saturday

Jesus continued,

'For to everyone who has will be given more, and they will have more than enough but from the those who have not, even what they have will be taken away.'

(Mt 25:29)

I recently finished *On the Trail of Genghis Khan* in which Tim Cope describes his journey from Mongolia to Hungary, sometimes through extremely harsh environments. How did he survive? On the kindness of strangers. If we are looking for the blessings of God, we will discover them, no matter what the situation is like.

Loving Jesus, show me how to enter every situation seeing it as an opportunity to experience the abundance of your love and grace. As I receive, so may I give.

Pray the words that Jesus taught us...Our Father, who art in heaven...

Continue your prayer through this day by looking for God's abundance in a situation you view negatively.