

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

Ferntree Gully Newsletter 2020

In the parable we hear about " a man going on a journey who 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" (Matt 25: 15). From the beginning of the story we are told that the servant who received just one talent is a man of little ability. He is not genius. Yet it is interesting to note that the master has a talent even for his relatively disabled servant. All God's children have got their talents, even those who appear to have very minimal abilities in comparison with more gifted ones.

Through the parable of the Talents Jesus teaches us a great lesson. The disciples are reminded that one day they too will have to give an account of life they received from God. God's grace and gifts can neither be wasted, nor can they remain static, nor be hidden. They have to be put to use for the purpose they have been given and should bear fruits. What is evaluated at the coming of the master is not how much a worker has made but how hard he has worked and how committed he was to the gifts given to him. In the parable, the first and second servants doubled the amount they received. No doubt, these two servants had to exercise considerable shrewdness and astuteness in investing the money. The third, servant showing no imagination or industry, took an easy path and hid the resources given to him. He was found lazy and unproductive and was fired from his job.

Dear friends, if you have a young adult, please help them to discover their talents; consider what it is that they do well. That will give some indication of what talents God has given them. Instead of preparing them for a job that will give them the most amount of money, why not to consider helping them to develop the talents God gave them so that they will live a happy and fulfilled life.

A few simple questions may help those young adults to discover what talents God gave them. Do they like to work with people or things? With their mind or with their hands? Do they like technology and mathematics or do they like poetry and painting? Seeking God's guidance, we can help our children to discover what gifts they have received from God.

For us this parable communicates the message that each one of us is given a share in the mission of Christ. Our failure to live up to the call and produce fruits for the kingdom will invite punishment from God. Through the master does not specify how much we should produce; he does not compromise on anything less than the best.

It is evident that all of us have received at least one talent. Each person comes into the world with talents from God. We don't know if they are 5 talents, 2 talents, or one talent. What counts is what do we do with the talents God gave us. We received both natural and supernatural talents from God. Our natural talents enable us to work for our daily bread and support ourselves. Our supernatural gift helps us to grow in the love of God and neighbour.

We have received the gift of faith. Our responsibility as men and women of faith is not just to preserve and " keep" the faith. We need to trade with it. We need to sell it to the men and women of our times. We need to promote and add value to faith. This is a venture that brings the faith just as the third servant lost his talent. The way to preserve the faith, or any other talent that God has given us, is to put it to work and make it bear fruit.

This parable is an opportunity for us, first, to count our blessings, and second, to examine ourselves how we handle and use the blessings entrusted to us by God. What happened to the third servant must serve as a strong warning to us. Regarding God's blessings, we must avoid the following:

selfishness, greed, envy, laziness, pride, arrogance and taking advantage of others who have less in life.

Let us be sorry for all our sins of selfishness and greed. And with grateful hearts, let us acknowledge God's many and varied gifts to us by singing the song "Thank You, Lord!"

JOKE OF THE WEEK:

How to stay safe without taking risk: **1.** Avoid riding in automobiles because they are responsible for 20% of all fatal accidents. **2.** Do not stay home because 17% of all accidents occur in the home. **3.** Avoid walking on streets or sidewalks because 14% of all accidents occur to pedestrians. **4.** Avoid traveling by air, rail, or water because 16% of all accidents involve these forms of transportation. **5.** Of the remaining 33%, 32% of all deaths occur in Hospitals. So, above all else, avoid hospitals. But you will be pleased to learn, only .001% of all deaths occur in worship services in Church, and these are usually related to previous physical disorders. Therefore, logic tells us that the safest place for you to be at any given point in time is at Church! And Bible study is safe too. The percentage of deaths during Bible study is even smaller. So, for SAFETY'S sake: Attend Church, and read your Bible. IT COULD SAVE YOUR LIFE!