

Brothers and Sisters in Christ: Grace and Peace!

A beautiful collection of themes runs through our liturgy this final Sunday in Ordinary Time. Next Sunday, we celebrate the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, as we bring another liturgical year to a close. Today's readings invite us to reflect on the many gifts and blessings God has entrusted to us. With Thanksgiving fast approaching, we are reminded to recognize and give thanks for the blessings we enjoy as individuals, families, and as a nation.

In our First Reading, the worthy wife is presented as a model of responsibility, wisdom, and readiness. She reminds us of a beautiful blend of Martha's diligence and Mary's attentiveness to the Lord. In the Second Reading, St. Paul continues this message by encouraging the young Christian community in Thessalonica to "stay awake and be sober" as they await the Day of the Lord. We do not need to know when Christ will return. What matters is that we live each day in faith, love, and readiness for His coming. Our respect for others, our generosity, and our willingness to place our gifts at the service of God and our neighbors are all ways of preparing for that day.

In the Gospel, Matthew 25:14-30, Jesus presents us with the familiar parable of the talents. A wealthy man prepares to go on a journey and entrusts his possessions to three servants, giving to each "according to his ability." Upon his return, he asks them to account for what they have done with what was entrusted to them.

This parable invites us to examine how we use the gifts God has given us. Our talents are not meant to be hidden, buried, or kept exclusively for ourselves. They are meant to be developed and shared for the good of others and the glory of God. The first two servants understood this responsibility and were rewarded for their faithfulness. The third servant, however, allowed fear to prevent him from doing anything with what he had received. There is an important lesson here: God does not expect us to have the same gifts or accomplish the same things. He asks only that we faithfully use what He has entrusted to us. Indeed, whatever we freely offer to God, He can bless, consecrate, and multiply. The two faithful servants discovered that their reward was not simply greater responsibility but an invitation to share in their master's joy.

Another important lesson from this Gospel is that one day, although we do not know when, each of us will be called to give an account of our stewardship. We will be asked what we did with the time, opportunities, abilities, faith, and blessings entrusted to us. The question, therefore, is not simply how much we have received, but how faithfully we have used it. **Are we ready?**

May we never allow fear, complacency, or selfishness to bury the gifts God has entrusted to us. Instead, may we one day hear those beautiful words of our Lord: **"Well done, my good and faithful servant. Come, share your master's joy."**

A Joyous Sunday!