

accounts with them.

20 The one who had received five talents came forward bringing the additional five.

He said, 'Master, you gave me five talents. See, I have made five more.'

21 His master said to him, 'Well done, my good and faithful servant. Since you were faithful in small matters, I will give you great responsibilities. Come, share your master's joy.'

22 Then the one who had received two talents also came forward and said, 'Master, you gave me two talents. See, I have made two more.'

23 His master said to him, 'Well done, my good and faithful servant. Since you were faithful in small matters, I will give you great responsibilities. Come, share your master's joy.'

24 Then the one who had received the one talent came forward and said, 'Master, I knew you were a demanding person, harvesting where you did not plant and gathering where you did not scatter;
25 so out of fear I went off and buried your talent in the ground. Here it is back.'

26 His master said to him in reply, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I did not plant and gather where I did not scatter?

27 Should you not then have put my money in the bank so that I could have got it back with interest on my return?

28 Now then! Take the talent from him and give it to the one with ten.

29 For to everyone who has, more will be given and he will grow rich; but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away.

30 And throw this useless servant into the darkness outside, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth.'''

* [25:14] It will be as when...journey: literally, "For just as a man who was going on a journey." Although the comparison is not completed, the sense is clear; the kingdom of heaven is like the situation here described. Faithful use of one's gifts will lead to participation in the fullness of the kingdom, lazy inactivity to exclusion from it.

* [25:15] Talents: see note on [Mt 18:24](#).

* [25:18] Buried his master's money: see note on [Mt 13:44](#).

* [25:20–23] Although the first two servants have received and doubled large sums, their faithful trading is regarded by the master as fidelity in small matters only, compared with the great

responsibilities now to be given to them. The latter are unspecified. Share your master's joy: probably the joy of the banquet of the kingdom; cf. Mt 8:11.

* [25:26–28] Wicked, lazy servant: this man's inactivity is not negligible but seriously culpable. As punishment, he loses the gift he had received, that is now given to the first servant, whose possessions are already great.

* [25:29] See note on Mt 13:12 where there is a similar application of this maxim.

* [25:30] See note on Mt 8:11–12.

Thoughts and reflection on the Gospel Passage

QUESTIONS FOR SHARING

1. Name some of the talents or gifts God has given you. What gifts or talents have you developed? What gifts or talents still wait to be developed?
2. What gifts or talents have you shared in the past? Or do you currently share those gifts or talents with your Church or wider community?
3. Are you hiding a gift that you should be using to benefit others?
4. Is there a 'stepping up to the plate' that you have not done out of fear of failure? Can you name a time you 'stepped up to the plate' even though you had a fear of failure?

Commentary

This Gospel is addressed to Jesus's disciples who are compared to servants entrusted with certain talents which are to be used well to promote Jesus' mission. It is important to note that the mean and very demanding master in the story does not represent God. Having said that, we can say that in telling this story, Jesus is saying to his disciples (and to us) that the time of waiting for his return is not to be a time of passive waiting or non-engagement out of fear of failure. Waiting for Jesus' return is "a time of opportunity, of active engagement and creative growth." In his first letter, St. Peter reminds us: "As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace" (4:10). This parable teaches the disciples (and us) to not let the fear of failure and fear of unacceptability prevent us from using the gifts we have received.

IS THERE A CAUSE FOR GRATITUDE THIS WEEK?

IS THERE A PRAYER REQUEST YOU HAVE?

CLOSING PRAYER - The Lord's Prayer

Bible Sharing Room 5 and Zoom

Starting Nov 15 from 6:30 – 7:30 pm EST Weekly on Wednesday
notes

Description: Blessed Sacrament is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Blessed Sacrament's Zoom Meeting

Time: Nov 15, 2023 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

Weekly: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZIkD-qgrj8qG9Rt4LoXWaku9w9Mo6AzLDCs/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGupzspEtSRsBiHRpwAHYigbzziClfjfpviEvJDBhkYwjjbUbH7opMcL8>

Join Zoom Meeting

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