

## Gospel Reflection

Today's Gospel provides us with a reminder of God's goodness to us in the parable of the talents. The word *talent* has a variety of meanings. We frequently think of it connected with entertainment as used in the media. But in the Gospel, it is used to mean money. *Talent* can also mean our gifts and abilities.

All talents come from God. This season of thankfulness provides a good opportunity for us to take stock. How do we use our time and talents? In our homes and neighborhoods, do we sort our used clothing and household goods to be shared with the less fortunate? Do we donate food items to the Beta Center? In our OLA community, do we become involved in one of the six Coordinating Councils or participate in one of the more than eighty parish ministries and activities? In the larger communities of Claremont, Upland, Montclair, Pomona, etc., do we use our talents in school activities, the Chamber of Commerce, or service organizations. Are we good stewards of the gifts God has given us?

Despite our many concerns involving money and material goods, Jesus is telling us that we should not use all our energy worrying and fretting and growing anxious about these things. Life is too short for that!

Consider the words of Saint Francis of Assisi: "Remember, when you leave this earth, you take with you nothing that you have received, only what you have been given, a full heart enriched with honest service, love, sacrifice and courage."

How will we each account for the gifts that God has given us so freely and with such generosity?

## KEEPING FAITH FIRST FAMILY FUN

*Matthew 25:14-30*

L D O E H R E T T A C S V  
Y W U S C Z W M N F M T K  
L U F H T I A F E A S L P  
R S X A V S S G L K L D V  
R G M R D T V L B Y D P F  
A J U V N N M G I I E L U  
T S T E W A R D S H I P K  
P R L S T V R J N X R H K  
M A S T E R S J O Y U R Q  
T H E I V E A B P W B T A  
S R O N I S A D S Q Z R B  
S M W G G N I R E H T A G  
D X T T I J O U R N E Y R

**Find these words from the Gospel passage.**

BURIED	FAITHFUL	STEWARDSHIP
GIVE	TRADE	MASTER'S JOY
JOURNEY	PLANT	RESPONSIBLE
SCATTER	SERVANTS	SMALL MATTERS
TALENTS	GATHERING	HARVESTING

## Disciple's Reflection\* & Questions of the Week

*The Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time  
11/16/2008*

*Matthew 25:14-30  
Faith-Sharing  
Questions of the Week*



*\*(The Gospel reflections for the 3 weeks of our parish stewardship renewal are being written by members of the OLA Stewardship Committee. This week's reflection is by Anne Henke and Margaret Porter.)*

### *Our Lady of the Assumption*

435 Berkeley Ave.  
Claremont, CA  
[www.olaclaremont.org](http://www.olaclaremont.org)

## Call to Prayer

*We begin by calling upon God:*

**In the Name of the Father,  
and of the Son, and of the  
Holy Spirit, Amen.**

*We then pause for a moment to listen with  
our hearts to this week's Gospel passage...*

**The Word of God:** *Matthew 25: 14-30*

### ***The Gospel according to Matthew***

Jesus told his disciples this parable: "A man going on a journey called in his servants and entrusted his possessions to them. To one he gave five **talents**; to another, two; to a third; one— to each according to his ability. Then he went away.

"Immediately the one who received five talents went and traded with them and made another five. Likewise, the one who received two made another two. But the man who received one went off and dug a hole in the ground and buried his master's money.

"After a long time, the master of those servants came back and settled accounts with them. 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.' 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.'

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

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, so out of fear I went off and buried your talent in the ground. Here it is back.'

"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? Should you not then have put my money in the bank so that I could have got it back with interest on my return? Now then! Take the talent from him and give it to the one with ten. 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. And throw this useless servant into the darkness outside, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth.'"

### ***The Gospel of the Lord***

#### **Gospel Glossary**

**talent:** A coin of high value. While the value of a talent varied depending on the metal and origin of the coin, even the least valuable talent of that time would have been equivalent to several years' wages to an average laborer.

**small matters:** Even though the wealth given to each servant was a huge quantity, it is considered a small matter compared to the responsibilities they are to receive later.

**wicked, lazy servant:** The servant's inaction is clearly seen as a serious offense.

## Faith Sharing

### **Questions of the Week**

- What gifts do you have to share?
- In what ways could you enrich your celebration of Advent by enriching the lives of others?
- What time, talent, and treasure are you committing to God in the coming year?

## Closing Prayer

*Father of all that is good,  
Keep us faithful in serving you,  
for to serve you is our lasting joy.  
We ask this through the Lord Jesus  
Christ your Son, who lives and  
reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.  
Amen.*

**Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**