



# Daily Reflections

## November 19, 2017

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### Scripture

#### **Matthew 25: 14-30**

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 also 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.'"

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## **Our Scripture Reflection**

Jesus uses this very familiar Gospel passage to remind us that we have been endowed with numerous talents and that we are expected to produce good things with those talents while here on earth. A point often overlooked about this parable with regard to the talents given to each of us is that God gives us talents because He TRUSTS US. He knows what we are capable of doing and He expects a good return on His investment. When the King comes at the end of time and asks you to give an accounting of your stewardship, what will you have to say???

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## **Food for your Journey**

Donald J. Shelby of Santa Monica, California, tells of reading Norman Maclean's posthumous bestseller *Young Men and Fire* (Boston: G. K. Hall, 1993). "It chronicles the tragic deaths of 12 young Forest Service 'Smokejumpers' who lost their lives in a 'blowup' fire that exploded on a hot, windy day in August of 1949 and trapped the firefighters in Mann Gulch above the Missouri River near Helena, Montana. It is a narrative that traces human responses to danger, disaster and death. It centers on youthful risk-taking and human error, as well as celebrates human courage. Three of the original crew of 15 survived because they somehow outran the flames and reached the top of the ridge. When testifying later before a government investigation, one of the young survivors said, 'The Lord was good to me -- He put wings on my feet, but I had to run like hell.'"

--Shelby, "Use It or Lose It," 7 February 1993.

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## **A Prayer from the Heart**

Dear Jesus, You trust me more than I trust myself! I very often fail to use the talents You have given me and to my full potential. Help me, Lord, to change my thinking and my living. Out of gratitude and love, may I do good things for Your glory and praise. Amen.