



Daily Reflections

November 22, 2017

Scripture

Luke 19: 11-28

While people were listening to Jesus speak, he proceeded to tell a parable because he was near Jerusalem and they thought that the Kingdom of God would appear there immediately.

So he said,

"A nobleman went off to a distant country to obtain the kingship for himself and then to return.

He called ten of his servants and gave them ten gold coins and told them, 'Engage in trade with these until I return.'

His fellow citizens, however, despised him and sent a delegation after him to announce,

'We do not want this man to be our king.'

But when he returned after obtaining the kingship, he had the servants called, to whom he had given the money, to learn what they had gained by trading.

The first came forward and said,

'Sir, your gold coin has earned ten additional ones.'

He replied, 'Well done, good servant!

You have been faithful in this very small matter; take charge of ten cities.'

Then the second came and reported,

'Your gold coin, sir, has earned five more.'

And to this servant too he said,

'You, take charge of five cities.'
Then the other servant came and said,
'Sir, here is your gold coin;
I kept it stored away in a handkerchief,
for I was afraid of you, because you are a demanding man;
you take up what you did not lay down
and you harvest what you did not plant.'
He said to him,
'With your own words I shall condemn you,
you wicked servant.
You knew I was a demanding man,
taking up what I did not lay down
and harvesting what I did not plant;
why did you not put my money in a bank?
Then on my return I would have collected it with interest.'
And to those standing by he said,
'Take the gold coin from him
and give it to the servant who has ten.'
But they said to him,
'Sir, he has ten gold coins.'
He replied, 'I tell you,
to everyone who has, more will be given,
but from the one who has not,
even what he has will be taken away.
Now as for those enemies of mine who did not want me as their king,
bring them here and slay them before me.'"
After he had said this,
he proceeded on his journey up to Jerusalem.

Our Scripture Reflection

Today's Gospel contains the familiar "Parable of the Talents." The point of the parable is simple but its implications for discipleship are profound. Jesus teaches us that each of us have been entrusted with various and sundry talents and the time to put them to use for the benefit of His earthly Kingdom. When our time in this life has come to an end, each of us will be called to give an accounting for what we did with our talent. That we are given talent from the Lord is a sign that He trusts us with His gifts. And, He expects a

return on His investment. In other words, the talent we have been given is the Lord's gift to us and what we do with our talent is our gift to the Lord.

Food for your Journey

"Your calling isn't something you inherently 'know,' some kind of destiny," writes Po Bronson in Fast Company magazine (January 2003). "Far from it. Almost all of the people I interviewed found their calling after great difficulty. They had made mistakes before getting it right. For instance, the catfish farmer used to be an investment banker, the truck driver had been an entertainment lawyer, a chef had been an academic, and the police officer was a Harvard MBA. Everyone discovered latent talents that weren't in their skill sets at age 25.

"Most of us don't get epiphanies. We only get a whisper — a faint urge. That's it. That's the call. It's up to you to do the work of discovery, to connect it to an answer."

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, Your generosity to me is more than what I deserve. Help me to show my gratitude by using the gifts I have received to Your glory. Amen.