

THE GOOD NEWS WEEKLY

Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
 Matthew 25:14-30 or 25:14-15, 19-21
 November 15, 2020

Buried talents never grow.

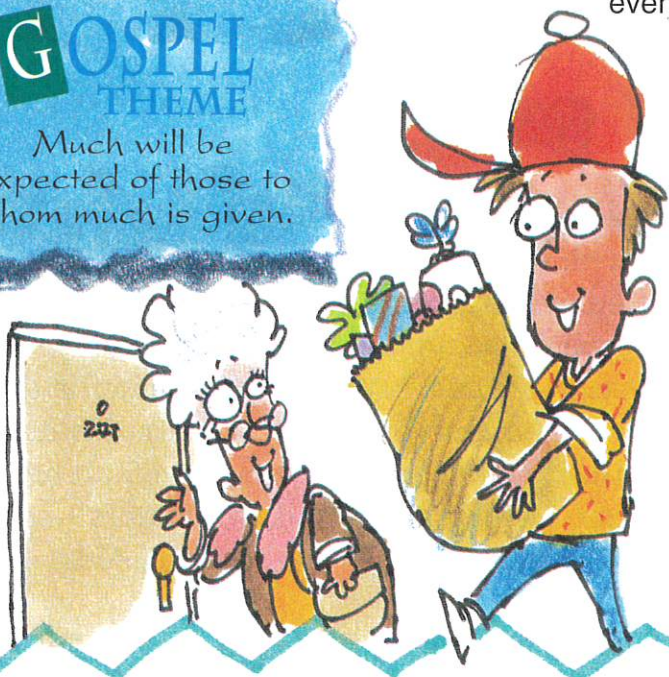


Today's gospel message is a hard one. Often people use it as an excuse for making money their primary focus in life. But is that *really* what Jesus is saying?

Maybe, instead of focusing on money we should focus on gifts and talents — those God-given gifts and talents that each and every one of us has. Maybe it is those gifts and talents that we are warned against burying, that we are to find ways of improving and increasing.

We tend to look up to people whose gifts and talents are newsworthy — superstars on the athletic field or in the recording business, for example. There are also those whose talents lie more in helping than in performing — medical missionaries or environmentalists, for example. Think for a moment about the many “unsung” heroes in the world — people you know, maybe in your own family, or in your class or parish — who give of themselves to the poor and the hungry. These are people who have taken the gifts and talents that God gave them, invested them wisely, and returned them to the Lord with interest. Jesus says to them, “Well done...enter into the joy of your master.”

GOSPEL THEME
 Much will be expected of those to whom much is given.



SCRIPTURE ACROSTIC

If you use your God-given gifts and talents, Jesus has good news for you. To read his good-news message, first fill in the blanks next to the definitions, then transfer the letters to the message according to the numbers.



The place where you live	<u>11</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>1</u>															
What jokes are	<u>17</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>18</u>														
Used for carrying dishes	<u>3</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>15</u>															
A group of three	<u>10</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>16</u>															
Small rodent	<u>22</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>4</u>														
Great happiness	<u>13</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>18</u>																
City road	<u>24</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>25</u>													
	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>15</u>				
	<u>16</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>27</u>							



**Think
about
it!**

God has given you many special gifts and talents. God wants you to build on those talents, to return them doubled or tripled. God does not want you to bury them.

Think about the talents God has given you. Each of us is gifted in different ways. Some have musical abilities...singing or dancing or playing instruments, composing or arranging. Some have artistic abilities... drawing or painting, writing or designing. Some are specially gifted with a gentle spirit, a listening ear, a quick wit, a strong faith....

What are your God-given gifts and talents? What are you doing with them?



A tree of gifts and talents



- For your tree, find a strong branch with several twigs.

"Plant" your tree in a low, wide vase or bowl.

- Discuss the special gifts and talents of each member of your class or family. Make a list of the people in the group, and note beside each name the gift or talent you believe best describes that person. [Some examples might be: Joe — sense of humor; Denise — truthful; Mr. Rogers — good teacher; Mom — comforting; Sean — reliable; Jody — great singer.]
- Using a small jar lid or something similar as a model, draw a circle for each person on gaily-colored sheets of construction paper and cut them out.
- On the front of each circle, write one person's name and on the back their gift or talent.
- Now, using small pieces of gaily-colored curling ribbon, hang the circles on your Tree of Gifts and Talents.
- You can use this tree as a centerpiece for a Thanksgiving celebration. As class or family prays together,

remember to thank God for all the gifts and talents of all the people represented on your Tree of Gifts and Talents. Ask Jesus to help you use them to build the kingdom of God.

