



November 19, 2017 Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time Lectionary: 157 Gospel MT 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.'"

Spiritual Reflection: I have never met a true atheist (someone who does not believe in God). Every atheist that I have met turned out to be anti-theist (someone who was rebelling against God for one reason or another). Most atheists see God as a task master that scares them like the master scared the servant in today's Gospel. The truth is God expects so little of us (simply putting the money in the bank was the minimum he wanted from his servants). Are you afraid to do even the minimum for God?

Spiritual Questions

1. Have you met a true atheist?
2. Were you ever against God for one reason or another? If so why?
3. What does the image of "wailing and grinding of teeth" invoke in you?
4. How can you invest your talents more?
5. How can you overcome your fear of God so that you may do what He desires you to do?