



Liturgy Cycle A

Thirty-Third Sunday Of The Year **The Responsibility Of Talent**

Introduction

In today's Gospel we meet a man who brought back to his master everything he had been given, and yet was censured. He was blamed, not for misusing the gifts he had been given, but rather for not having used them at all. Which of us could say, in all truth, that we always do our best? Do we not all bury at least some of our talents?

First Reading (Proverbs31: 10-13.19-20.30-31)

By worldly standards the woman mentioned in this reading would hardly be classified as a talented person. Yet according to the writer she has something far more precious than jewels, namely, a loving heart and caring hands.

Second Reading (1 Thessalonians5: 1-6)

Paul tells his friends that he doesn't know when the Lord will come back. Therefore, he urges them to be always ready lest they be caught unawares.

Gospel (Matthew 25:14-30)

This contains the story of three men who got some money from their master, and how two of them used it well, whereas the third failed to make any use of it all.

Prayer Of The Faithful

Let us pray that we may use to the full the talents, gifts, and graces God has given us, and thus enrich not only our own lives but the lives of others.

R: Lord, graciously hear us.

For the church: that it may encourage all its members to discover, develop, and use all their gifts of nature and grace. Lord, hear us.

R: Lord, graciously hear us.



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For all leaders: that by developing a spirit of co-responsibility they may provide all those under them with opportunities to use and develop their talents. Lord, hear us.

R: Lord, graciously hear us.

For all those who through laziness, carelessness, or simply lack of opportunity, have failed to make use of their talents. Lord, hear us.

R: Lord, graciously hear us.

That we may not envy others who are more talented than we are, and that we may not be satisfied with ourselves until we have used our talents, however modest they may be. Lord, hear us.

R: Lord, graciously hear us.

Communion Reflection

A miser melted down his hoard of gold into a single lump which then he secretly buried in a field.

**Every day he went to look at it,
and would spend hours gloating over it.**

**But one of his servant discovered his secret,
and came by night and stole the gold.**

The miser was inconsolable.

But one day a friend of his said:

'Don't take it so badly.

**Just put a brick in the hole,
and take a look at it every day.**

**You won't be any worse off than before,
for even when you had the gold
you never used it'.**

**We all bury some talent or gift
which we won't use or develop.**

**It is not only the man with one talent who buries it,
but people who have been given five or ten talents.**

**Instead of reaping double,
they become falsely cautious or just plain lazy,
and bury their talents.**

And what is buried is of no earthly use to anyone.