

# Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

## November 19, 2017

As we come to the close of the liturgical year and as Advent begins, the readings from the Sacred Scripture, urge us, the People of God, to be vigilant and resourceful. They call us to claim responsibility for building the kingdom of God on earth. Believers are recognized as partners in spreading the Good News. Jesus is asking us to be active participants in his mission to the world. Jesus sends us out to proclaim his love for everyone we meet.

The first reading reminds us of the importance of obtaining wisdom in one's life. The example is the worthy wife who goes about her duties as if she is serving the Lord. St. Paul urges attentiveness while waiting for the Lord's second coming because the date is uncertain, it does not mean that he is not coming again. We can become complacent. In the parable, Jesus explains to his disciples that when he does come again they will be working diligently using the gifts that have been given to them.

In the Gospel, an absentee landowner entrusts large sums of money to his servants to care for while he goes away on a journey. One servant gets five talents which is about \$5,000, another gets \$2,000 and another gets \$1,000. Two use investing and trading to double their sums. One out of fear, buries his money and gives it back.

The resourceful servants are rewarded, and the fearful servant is punished. In just the same way we will be rewarded when Jesus comes to judge us if we have used our time, talents, and financial resources for the honor and glory of God and for service to our brothers and sisters who are in need.

Many times, when reading someone's obituary in the newspaper, there will be a long list of accomplishments, memberships in different service organizations, and even service in the armed forces but there is always one line and he or she will be very much missed by family and friends. The everything done in the name of the Lord Jesus are important whether they are large or small. For all of us, it will be the small everyday duties and endeavors will be treasured stones in the crown of eternal glory.

In the coming week, we should ask ourselves what gifts has God given to each one of us. In a spirit of thanksgiving so we use our gifts for his glory and the service of our brothers and sisters in need. Has God been calling you to serve in one small part in the Kingdom of God? Let us ask for the grace to step out of our comfort zone and to build up the Kingdom in our midst.