

Using Our Talents to the Full

From Mt 25:14-30 By P.Ribes,s.j.

Intent of these jottings

- ✓ *To discover one's talents.*
- ✓ *To thank God for them*
- ✓ *To use them to the full.*
- ✓ *For self-realization*
- ✓ *To improve one's self-image".*

The Parable of the Talents

¹⁴"Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his property to them. ¹⁵To one he gave five talents^[a] of money, to another two talents, and to another one talent, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. ¹⁶The man who had received the five talents went at once and put his money to work and gained five more. ¹⁷So also, the one with the two talents gained two more. ¹⁸But the man who had received the one talent went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

¹⁹"After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. ²⁰The man who had received the five talents brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five talents. See, I have gained five more.'

²¹"His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

²²"The man with the two talents also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with two talents; see, I have gained two more.'

²³"His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

²⁴"Then the man who had received the one talent came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. ²⁵So I was afraid and went out and hid your talent in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.'

²⁶"His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? ²⁷Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.'

²⁸" Take the talent from him and give it to the one who has the ten talents. ²⁹For everyone who has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him. ³⁰And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

HOUGHTS FOR REFLECTION

A) God has gifted us all with a wealth of talents, abilities and qualities.

We are born rich!

- Most of us are not aware of our treasures; we have to make an effort to discover them.
- Life is like a "treasure hunt". Let us search and we shall find.
- Rather than feeling jealous of the wealth of others, let us make efforts to find our own.
- All our talents are gifts of God.
- We have to accept whatever God gives us with contented hearts.
- Keep always in mind that our talents are not our property, they are lent to us, actually they belong to God, they are given to us in trust, we have to use of them only as God wants us to use them
- The more talents we have, the greater our responsibility will be, and the more we shall be asked by God.

B) Relative value of our Talents.

- God expects returns from us, in proportion to our abilities.
- God does not expect the same returns from all.
- One thing, however, is clear, God wants 100% returns.
- Those of us who got one talent only, will be asked one more, those who got two, will be asked two more, those who got five, will have to return five m more.
- Holiness is a relative term. God will declare "saint" anyone who produces his 100
- He who produces one talent out of one, will be equal before God to the one who produces 50 out of 50
- We need not feel inferior before God because we have fewer talents. Before God all men are equal To say the truth – all of us are like indigent beggars before God!
- Unfortunately, we judge others according to their gross output, the size, and the quantity of what they produce.
- God doesn't do that. His ways of judging are not our ways.
- We make hard and fast rules for all, we expect all men to show the same results. This is most unfair.
- A lame person cannot be expected to run as fast as a person with sound legs.
- Our world brands as "failures" those who do not measure up to its standards.
- God measures each one according to his personal capacity and talents –
- Each person is his own measure.
- God accepts all of us for what we are.
- Anyone who yields his 100% is not a failure before God.

- It is we who make people feel like failures.
- Parents, teachers, superiors, educators are to be blamed for the "terrible feeling" of being a failure, so many children and subordinates suffer from.

C) Joy, contentment and satisfaction in life do not depend on how many talents we have, but on how we use them.

- Many people envy the talents of others and forget to use their own.
- Being satisfied with what we have is the key to joy and fulfillment.
- Deep and lasting happiness is born from perfect "self-acceptance" of our strengths and weaknesses.
- He who tries to be more than what he is, will never taste happiness.
- True satisfaction comes from being "ourselves", never from trying to be somebody else.
- Competing ourselves to others is the root of jealousy and violence.
- We are born to live with others, not to compete with them.
- Jealousy of others implies self-rejection and dislike at being ourselves
- Don't try to be better than what you are.

D) God's talents are nor given to us only for our personal profit. but for the benefit of all

- God expects us to put our talents at the service of others.
- They are not given to us only for "selfish" enjoyment:
- We have to go out to others in service.
- Only when we accept our talents and put them at the service of others, that life is worth living.
- As long as we remain encapsulated within our little "ego", we shall never taste happiness

Paradoxically,

- we have to make others happy to find happiness;
- to share our riches with others to be wealthy; ,
- to give away our talents to others to retain them.
- to go out of our-selves in love to be ourselves,