

# FR. JOHN'S GOSPEL REFLECTION

November 13, 2011

Today's Gospel according to Matthew presents the parable of talents. Let's understand this parable. The man who entrusted his possessions to his servants or the master who settled accounts with them is God. The servants are human beings. The talents are God's gifts. The servants who develop and use their talents, for the benefit of others, are men and women who are worthy of God. The servant who hoards his talent for himself is not worthy of God. When Matthew says "The master came back and settled accounts with them" he is referring to the last judgment, when Jesus will return in glory.

God is so rich that He gives to everyone specific gifts such as love, joy, peace, justice, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness or gentleness. God expects everyone to work hard to develop those special gifts. God gives to each of us special gifts according to our ability (our capacity to do or act physically, mentally, legally, morally, or financially), our needs and the needs of others.

The big question today is: Do I know my special gift? Indeed, to recognize one's special gift, we need a profound and continual discernment through prayer – especially the adoration of the Blessed Sacrament; meditation of the Word of God; and of the Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary; spiritual direction and selective books and periodicals. These are some of the means that help us to discern our gifts, and nurture them for the glory of God, the good of the humanity and one's salvation.

It is important to note that God always bestows someone a special gift not only for his own benefit, but also for the good of others. Therefore, knowing one's special gift and using it is a way of salvation (the servants who receive five and two talents). In the same way, ignoring one's special gift and not working on it is a way of damnation (the servant who receives one talent).

If we look at today's first reading from the Book of Proverbs gifts are given to a worthy wife. A worthy wife fears the Lord. She is the glory of her husband, who entrusts his heart to her. She works hard. She is lovely to her husband and generous to the poor and needy. As result, the worthy wife is a gifted and valuable woman to everyone. What about you, wives? You are called to pray and try to be worthy wives for the glory God; the good of your families; and for your redemption.

In the Second Reading, Saint Paul reminds us the main message of last Sunday Word of God: "Concerning times and seasons, brothers and sisters, ... you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief at night. Therefore, let us not sleep as the rest do, but let us stay alert and sober."

The theme of the "*Biblical Walk through the Mass*" this Sunday is: Living a Eucharistic life, which means "hasten the day of the Lord's coming" and build up the kingdom of God by bringing about reconciliation where there is division; justice where there is injustice; peace where there is violence; and love where there is hatred or indifference. Thus we stay awake and vigilant in faith so we are ready to welcome that unknown day when the Lord will come again.

God bless you.