

# Fr. Rito's Homily

For the 33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time  
November 19, 2017

12:15 PM Mass in Spanish and 5:00 PM Sunday in English

As Christians, we serve the Lord with joy because we recognize him as the author of life. Whoever has the joy of God has life and light. Saint Paul invites us to live our lives as the children of light. In other words, be awake and vigilant so that the arrival of Jesus in our lives, does not surprise us, like a thief in the night.

The first reading from Proverbs reveals the value of women. The woman is the only one who has the ability to give life.

Also, the woman is the one that fears the Lord and works in the service of the family and the needy. The women of God are creative and compassionate to sustain their home in faith. The woman often takes the initiative to develop God's plan for us, for the good of the family.

The husband who finds a worthy wife is blessed. Women are a blessing in homes. Blessed be God for all Christian woman who, with humility and simplicity, continue to show the compassionate love of God.

The Gospel of today is of the Parable of the Talents. This parable teaches us how God gives us gifts so that we can produce fruit. And these fruits are produced according to our personal abilities.

Jesus began this parable by saying: "The Kingdom of Heaven is like a man going on a journey and who called his servants, entrusting his possessions to them." To one, he gave five talents; to another, two; to a third, just one - to each according to his ability. Two of them, doubled the talents, for their master.

The man who left on the journey, represents Jesus. The trusted servants are the disciples, and the talents are the gifts that God gave to them. The gifts are His word, the Eucharist, faith, forgiveness, and reconciliation.



God wants His Kingdom to grow through the proclamation of His word, by the testimony of His life, and charitable work. God, through His Son Jesus Christ, has granted us faculties, capacities, and powers to do goodness for all.

God wants us to demonstrate our Christianity and win souls for His Kingdom. God freely gives us spiritual and personal gifts through our parents, educators, and friends and also in the diverse circumstances and experiences of our lives. These gifts enable us to do, with ease, God will.

With the grace of God, we can achieve in perfecting ourselves and helping others to perfect themselves. The Parable of the Talents requires our work and effort so we are effective and will receive God's gifts.

God does not give a reward for having these gifts and talents. He gives rewards for enhancing the talents He entrusted to each one of us. God does not condemn the one who receives one talent but rather, condemns the action of not allowing the talents to produce. The wicked and lazy servant, who hid the talent, symbolizes the people who block creativity and the fruitfulness of love.

Today's parable encourages us not to hide the talent of faith and our belonging to Christ. The word of the Gospel of Christ cannot be hidden. It must be proclaimed in our lives and manifested in the relationship of fraternity with others.

God asks us today to use the talents: and gifts that He has given us. This is God's mission for us. We are collaborators, so that others know and obtain God's salvation.

We all have qualities to serve our community. Christians should not let themselves be carried away by fear, by crises of faith, or by the disasters of Christian morality. Christians are to live by the trust and love in God.

Whoever has received God's grace through His word and the sacraments but by carelessness of life, does not make use of them, loses the grace of God. Let us ask the Lord's help to be good and faithful servants, to participate with Jesus, so we will know the joy of the eternal Kingdom, both now and in Heaven.

Fr. Rito's Homilies are on our parish website:

[www.EmmausParish.org](http://www.EmmausParish.org).

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