The Catholic Tugboat

A Children's Guide to God

November 15, 2020 Cycle A, 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Volume V, Issue 51

Buried Treasures

Today's Gospel tells the Parable of the Talents. A '***talent***' used to mean a *large amount of money*. Some researchers believe it was worth about 15 years pay for a day laborer! Interestingly, the worker who was given the least by the Master risked the least and made nothing of what was given to him.

Proverb 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31
Psalms 128:1-2, 3, 4-5
1 Thessalonians 5:1-6
Matthew 25:14-30

What Jesus wants us to know is that we, too, have been given '***talents***.' We are all given *spiritual gifts* worth a great deal that we can nurture and grow. Yes, it's risky. To develop faith we have to trust that God is always with us, no matter what happens. To strengthen our longing and hope for God, we must think of Him, study our faith. To grow in charity, we must forgive and give to others.



Only we can choose to invest the time and the effort to develop the spiritual gifts we've been given. To help us endure, we should just imagine the look on our heavenly Father's face when He sees how great our faith, hope, and charity have become!

Catholic I.D.

Just like a loan that is returned with interest, our spiritual gifts are to be developed before being offered back. This means that work is good. It is a way to praise God: "Work honors the Creator's gifts and the talents received from him." *(CCC 2427)*

This is especially important because we don't know when our Lord is coming back, and we want to be prepared. So, let us remember, "every event and need can become an offering of thanksgiving… 'Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving.'" *(CCC 2638)* In this way, we can turn every moment of our lives into a prayer!



From Your Lips to God's Ear



The sixth petition of the Our Father sounds strange: "***Lead us not into temptation.***" God never leads anyone into temptation. This is a way of saying, "Please don't let us get near temptation or give in to it!" *(CCC 2846)* The final petition makes this a little clearer, "***But deliver us from evil.***" We end this prayer with a simple plea: "Keep us safe and close to you!" This means from bad people and the evil one himself, the devil.

The Our Father is a wonderful gift. It can be our shield and our sword or simply a way to whisper into God's ear. Using it is our choice.



Our Salvation History: The Maccabees

After being protected by Persia, Jerusalem and the Jewish people were conquered by Alexander the Great of Greece. He soon divided his empire, and the Jewish people came under the rule of Egypt and then Syria. It was under Syria's rule that the Maccabean Revolt occurred.

The Syrians tried to force Greek culture and religion upon the Jewish people. They went so far as to place their own statues and sacrifice to false gods in the Temple in Jerusalem! This was too much for the Jewish people to bear.

A strong family led by Mattathias Maccabee refused to worship false gods. A year after fleeing for their safety, his five sons returned to lead the people in a revolt against the Syrians. Judas Maccabee ('the hammer') and his four brothers made a strong stand and emerged victorious: there would be no defiling of their Temple with the blood of sacrifice to idols. Jerusalem and all of Judea grew strong in their identity, even among a growing Roman presence. The stage is now set for the birth of our Lord.



Tugboat Challenge

Find the words from the box below in the jumble. The words go in all different directions!

Word Box:

CHARITY
EVIL
FAITH
HOPE
MACCABEES
OUR FATHER
PRAYER
SACRIFICE
SAFETY
SPIRITUAL GIFTS
TALENTS
TEMPLE
TEMPTATION
WORK

Y L S E Y J I N U O Y K A S I
I F Y X T R M Q Z C N G T A O
P G C M J M B Y P I O F O C F
A R Y C A L F T A U I C F R D
B W K B W C Z E R G T E V I L
C H P O Y K C F L I A E H F O
Y H R R Q I A A Q V T O K I D
T K A A T T U S B H P U B C N
E Z Y R H T O E T E M P L E T
R H E E I V Q I X H E A Q M C
D E R R J T A L E N T S C O R
S Q I H U F Y X W O F C F B P
P P V Z V F N S J R W L B Y J
S K A X F W W B A V C C X T Z
Q U O I Q C X S O M R Z C W U

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