

## Thirty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

A business owner decides to take a tour around his business and see how things are going. He goes down to the shipping docks and sees a young man leaning against the wall doing nothing. The owner walks up to the young man and says, "Son, how much do you make a day?" The guy replies, "150 dollars." The owner pulls out his wallet, gives him \$150, and tells him to get out and never come back. A few minutes later, the shipping clerk asks the owner, "Have you seen the UPS driver?? I asked him to wait here for me!"

Dear Friends,

The church continues to reflect about the end of the world or the end of lives as we are approaching closer to the liturgical year. For the past two weeks, we were reflecting about the preparedness. Always be ready because you never know what might come your way.

In today's first reading from the book of Proverbs is part of the instruction given to king Lemuel by his mother. When she warns him how he should have the integrity in choosing his wife who has all dimensions. Most importantly like the king, she desires, his wife should be characterized by a strength that encompasses virtuous living and wisdom.

The second reading talks about the coming of the Lord and asks us to stay alert and sober. Always be ready so that you are not just reacting to situations when they arrive. Be proactive, never idle, but always be prepared to do whatever good deed you can.

The Gospel passage talks about the talents. We usually think that we need to multiply our talents. I would like to draw your attention to present today's situation. I will summarize the Gospel in three points.

- 1) God has entrusted His responsibilities to us to build the kingdom on earth. This is the biggest mission that God has given to each one of us. He has called the servants and has handed over to us according to our ability. He knows our ability. When He gave the responsibilities, He wanted us to join in building the kingdom on earth. It is not one man's job. It is a joint venture of everybody. God trusts and entrusts us as a community and a family to take care of too. God has given us many qualities and abilities for the good of others and whenever we accept responsibilities without fear of criticism or failure, He will entrust us with more.
- 2) Be Proactive: Think of the first two servants in the Gospel how they multiplied according to their ability. God has given us a beautiful world to live in. We have nice and loving people around us. Can we not, bring out our faith and multiply it by deepening the faith into five times or two times. God has given us the gifts through the holy spirit through baptism and other sacraments. We build by our faith, our work, and our capacity to understand others. Discover the faith that you received through baptism and share it

with others with a positive attitude. When you have done things positively, then you receive the master's appreciation and start to have a personal relationship saying, "Well done! My good and faithful servant. Come and share my Joy." God becomes more personal when you are proactive. 'What is in a name?' Each one of us has three names: The name we inherited from our family, the name given to us by parents and the name we have made for ourselves. The first two are given while the last one is made.

- 3) Do not misjudge anyone: This is the most important lesson we need to learn. The third servant looked at his master in a negative way that he was demanding, cruel and misjudged him. There is a lot of contrast between those two servants and him because of his misjudgment. He is called useless, wicked and lazy. When you misjudge people with prejudice, either fear or pride will cover you up. God never misjudges anyone of us. He loves and trusts every one of us.

For reflection today, ask yourself the following questions:

1. What is it that you love to do? You cannot do well what you hate to do.
2. What will you do for free?
3. What comes easy for some people can be difficult for others?
4. What can others say to you that you can do best?

Hence, let us be grateful to God whatever He has done to us. Take up the responsibility either in a smaller scale or in larger scale with our faith. Be proactive; bring more energy to build the kingdom on earth without judging anyone negatively.

To begin where you are..., and do what you can.... with what you have. God will flourish everything.