

2023 CCHD Collection Weekend Homily Help

Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Lectionary: 157

Reading 1

Prv 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31

When one finds a worthy wife,
her value is far beyond pearls.
Her husband, entrusting his heart to her,
has an unfailing prize.
She brings him good, and not evil,
all the days of her life.
She obtains wool and flax
and works with loving hands.
She puts her hands to the distaff,
and her fingers ply the spindle.
She reaches out her hands to the poor,
and extends her arms to the needy.
Charm is deceptive and beauty fleeting;
the woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.
Give her a reward for her labors,
and let her works praise her at the city gates.

Homily Notes

- The wisdom of this passage is that there is a search that involves discernment. And the discernment must go beyond appearance or attraction. What is prized above all is that the partner's heart is guarded and safe which means that a partner is free to share their inmost cares and concerns. How many relationships fail because the couple fails to "open up" to one another?
- In prizing one's partner, it is a good thing to put into words what they do that you admire. It shows appreciation and signals to your husband/wife that you notice the care that is offered out of love.
- Not only for the one seeking a partner, but also for the one that is found. "Fearing the Lord" is the key to both in a relationship. Your relationship with others improves when you love God with your whole heart and love your neighbor as yourself. These two commandments help to build trust, love and mutual respect in relationships.

Reading 2

1 Thes 5:1-6

Concerning times and seasons, brothers and sisters,
you have no need for anything to be written to you.
For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come
like a thief at night.
When people are saying, "Peace and security, "
then sudden disaster comes upon them,

like labor pains upon a pregnant woman,
and they will not escape.

But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness,
for that day to overtake you like a thief.
For all of you are children of the light
and children of the day.
We are not of the night or of darkness.
Therefore, let us not sleep as the rest do,
but let us stay alert and sober.

Homily Notes

- This time of the Liturgical Year always points to the end of days. And St. Paul cautions us to remember who we are: children of the light. Our light should keep us vigilant to see the darkness around us. This means that our thoughts, words and deeds impart light to our world. Do our actions show that we are children of the light? Are we comfortable in the status quo and accepting of the situations of darkness in our lives? May we discern in ourselves the need for ongoing conversion and renewal so that we can always deepen our relationship with God and keep the light shining in our hearts as we prepare for the “day of the Lord.”

Gospel

Mt 25:14-30

Jesus told his disciples this parable:

"A man going on a journey
called in his servants and entrusted his possessions to them.
To one he gave five talents; to another, two; to a third, one—
to each according to his ability.
Then he went away.
Immediately the one who received five talents went and traded with them,
and made another five.
Likewise, the one who received two made another two.
But the man who received one went off and dug a hole in the ground and buried his master's money.

"After a long time
the master of those servants came back
and settled accounts with them.
The one who had received five talents came forward
bringing the additional five.
He said, 'Master, you gave me five talents.
See, I have made five more.'
His master said to him, 'Well done, my good and faithful servant.
Since you were faithful in small matters,
I will give you great responsibilities.
Come, share your master's joy.'
Then the one who had received two talents also came forward and said,
'Master, you gave me two talents.
See, I have made two more.'
His master said to him, 'Well done, my good and faithful servant.
Since you were faithful in small matters,
I will give you great responsibilities.
Come, share your master's joy.'
Then the one who had received the one talent came forward and said,
'Master, I knew you were a demanding person,
harvesting where you did not plant

and gathering where you did not scatter;
so out of fear I went off and buried your talent in the ground.
Here it is back.'
His master said to him in reply, 'You wicked, lazy servant!
So you knew that I harvest where I did not plant
and gather where I did not scatter?
Should you not then have put my money in the bank
so that I could have got it back with interest on my return?
Now then! Take the talent from him and give it to the one with ten.
For to everyone who has,
more will be given and he will grow rich;
but from the one who has not,
even what he has will be taken away.
And throw this useless servant into the darkness outside,
where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth.'"

Homily Notes

- The phrase, "To each according to his ability," seems to set everything in motion. The man entrusted to his servants what he thought they could handle. So no matter what was given, there was an expectation of profit. I would offer the challenge that the talents given by the master are our very lives. The psalmist exclaims, "How can I repay the Lord for his goodness to me?" Indeed, the gift of life that has been given to us, we couldn't possibly begin to repay God. Even our thanksgiving is itself a gift. All we can do is offer the talent to Jesus, who will take it, redeem it, and provide the profit.