

Christ Child Catholic Church
Dedicated to Growth in Christ and to the
Challenges of Loving Service

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THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME
November 15, 2020

The Lord said: I think thoughts of peace and not affliction.

You will call upon me, and I will answer you, and I will lead back your captives from every place.

(Jeremiah 29: 11, 12, 14)

First reading Proverbs 31: 10-13, 19-20, 30-31
The Virtuous Wife

This book, a collection of wise sayings gleaned from the court of several kings in Israel, concludes with a beautiful poem celebrating the ideal wife.

Of course, any clever Israelite would fall in love with Lady Wisdom and seek to win her hand in marriage. All of this represents the relationship between God and people. **Wisdom** is best understood as God's saving presence in the world. Everyone is invited to pursue a right relationship with God and thus gain eternal life.

The rhetorical question: **Who can find...?** Draws attention to the rarity of a **virtuous wife**. The parallel line emphasizes her value: **"An excellent wife is the crown of her husband..." "Houses and riches are an inheritance from fathers, but a prudent wife is from the Lord."**

The **heart of her husband** refers to his mind or inner self more than his emotions. He trusts her and her tenacity, knowing she will follow through

on anything she attempts. His commitment to her grows out of his confidence in her strength, abilities, and resourcefulness. She is effective and successful in all that she does.

Salvation is available to all; societal boundaries have no influence with God. And **Wisdom** is described as reaching out to the poor and the needy.

Second reading 1 Thessalonians 5: 1-6
The Day of the Lord

The Day of the Lord includes everything that happens from the Rapture all the way through the Tribulation and the Millennium. It is a time of judgment that will begin when we least expect it – like a **thief in the night**- and set off seven years of unparalleled distress, warfare, and plague (the Tribulation period) that will culminate in the fearful battle of Armageddon. After that, the Lord will return to set up His glorious kingdom, ushering in the earth's golden age.

Children of light! The "thief" will not catch Christians off guard because they always live in God's light. The point is that they live according to God's will and are therefore always ready.

The Gospel Matthew 25: 14-30
The Parable of the Talents

Talent in this context is a financial term referring to a unit of weight that came to be associated with coinage. Here, the word represents all the opportunities God gives people to serve Him, including their wealth, reputation, abilities, and learning. This parable warns believers to diligently take everything God has given and invest it for His glory as they await Christ's second coming.

Faithful servants, regardless of the bounty entrusted to them, use what they have been given to extend their master's influence. The rewards God gives for such faithful service are abundant, out of all proportion to the tasks accomplished. Those who see God as a **hard** taskmaster never discover the joyful, biblical meaning of the fear (loving reverence) of the Lord. Because they live only in fear, they never multiply the gifts God gives them.

This parable teaches the truth that Jesus' followers are duty-bound to work to expand His kingdom in His absence, no matter how long the wait for His return.

Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick we
celebrate on Saturday and Sunday 5 & 6 of
December in the Masses!
For Pregnancy Support
Birthright 241-8444 or 800-550-4900

MASS INTENTIONS November 14 - 20
Saturday 5:00 p.m. + Irene Ann Miller
Sunday 10:00 a.m. + Cecily Olsen
+ John Parker

Tuesday 9:00 a.m. + Nickie Kovac

Thursday 9:00 a.m. + Theresia Krauss

Friday 9:00 a.m. + Martina Durham

Every Saturday we pray the ROSARY together in the church at 4:30 pm. Please come to pray for our families and our Country!

PRAYER REQUEST Can be sent
christchildchurchprayerline@gmail.com

Women's Club/Prayer Group
For our **November Meeting**, it was decided to meet on the **THIRD WEDNESDAY – November 18th** (1-2:30 as usual) since the 4th one is the day before Thanksgiving. Hope to see you there! Let me know if anyone would like to choose, a Saint to discuss or any spiritual topic.
God Bless. Kathy Tumason.

Thanksgiving Day Mass on November 26th will
be at 9:00 a.m.

AWAKEN RESPONSIBILITY
The parable of the talents is an open-ended story that lends itself to be read in various ways. In fact, commentators and preachers have frequently interpreted it in an allegorical sense, directed in different directions. **It's important that we concentrate on the action of the third servant,**

since he occupies the greatest attention and space in the parable.

His conduct is strange. While the other servants dedicate themselves to make the goods the master has entrusted them with bear fruit, the third one thinks of nothing else but to **"hide in the ground"** the talent he received, in order to keep it safe. When the master arrives, he condemns how the **"wicked and lazy"** servant hasn't understood anything. How to explain his behavior?

The servant feels no sense of identification with his master or with his interests. At no point does he act motivated by love. **He doesn't love his master, he's afraid of him.** And that fear is precisely what brings him to seek his own safety. He himself explains it all, **"I was afraid and I went off and hid your talent in the ground"**

The servant doesn't understand what his true responsibility consists of. He thinks that he is responding to the expectation of his master by preserving his talent in safety, though unproductive. He doesn't know what an active and creative faithfulness is all about. **He doesn't get involved in his master's projects.** When the master arrives, the servant says so clearly: **"Here it is, it was yours, you have it back"**. We need to listen attentively to Jesus' parable when it seems that Christianity for many has arrived at a point in which their priority is "to preserve" and not so much seek courageously new paths to welcome, live out, and announce the project of God's reign. Today he's speaking this parable to us.

If we never feel called to follow Christ's demands beyond what's been endlessly taught and commanded; if we risk nothing to make a Church that is more faithful to Jesus; if we keep ourselves far from any conversion that could complicate our life; if we don't assume the responsibility of the kingdom as Jesus did, seeking "new wine in new wineskins", then all the more we need to learn the active, creative and risk-taking faithfulness to which this parable invites us. **By Fr. Jose Antonio Pagola.**