

THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY - A- NOVEMBER 19, 2017

THIS PARABLE IN TODAY'S GOSPEL IS CONFUSING -

I DON'T KNOW IF YOU EXPERIENCED THAT?

***WHO PUNISHES A PERSON FOR RETURNING PROPERTY - UNHARMED -
THAT HE WAS PLEDGED TO PROTECT.***

***WHERE IS THE JUSTICE IN TAKING FROM THE LEAST AND GIVING TO
THOSE WITH THE MOST?***

***ISN'T THAT ONE OF OUR MAJOR CONCERNS IN OUR ECONOMY THESE
DAYS AND PART OF THE DEBATE OVER TAX REFORM THESE DAYS
WHAT KIND OF PERSON BRAGS ABOUT HARVESTING WHERE HE DID NOT
PLANT?***

***AND WHAT DOES THIS GRASPING AND PETULANT MAN HAVE TO DO WITH
THE GOD WHOSE EVENHANDED GENEROSITY SENDS RAIN ON THE JUST
AND UNJUST ALIKE?***

***FOR THAT REASON I AM GOING TO RELY HEAVILY TODAY FOR MY
COMMENTS ON A RECENT COMMENTARY ON THIS GOSPEL IN AMERICA
MAGAZINE BY MICHAEL SIMONE, SJ - A SCRIPTURE SCHOLAR AT BOSTON
COLLEGE..***

I HATE TO ADMIT THAT I'M RELYING SO HEAVILY ON A JESUIT -

BUT THAT IS EXACTLY WHAT I'M DOING.....

PRETTY MUCH GIVING YOU THE ARTICLE..

IT IS THE BEST I'VE SEEN ON THIS STORY...

FIRST, HE STATES THAT IT IS IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER THAT

MATTHEW, THE AUTHOR, WAS A JEW SPEAKING TO JEWS ABOUT JEWS.

MATTHEW BELIEVED THAT JUDAISM WAS A TREASURE OF DIVINE

GRACE

FOR ALL HUMANITY AND THAT THIS GIFT WAS CLEAREST IN CHRIST.

***MATTHEW ALSO BELIEVED THAT THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES CONTAINED
EVERYTHING NECESSARY TO BELIEVE IN JESUS CHRIST.***

THUS, THE TALENTS REPRESENT THE WORD OF GOD...

"THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE MYSTERIES OF THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN".

***THE JEWS WHO CAME TO BELIEVE IN JESUS CHRIST WERE DOUBLY
GRACED....***

THE MAN WITH THE FIVE TALENTS REPRESENTS THESE BELIEVERS....

***THE MAN WITH TWO TALENTS REPRESENTS THOSE GENTILES WHO,
WITHOUT THE BENEFIT OF SCRIPTURE SOMEHOW STILL RECOGNIZED
THE TRUTH OF JESUS***

***THE MAN WITH ONE TALENT REPRESENTS THOSE WHO POSSESSED THE
SCRIPTURES, FAILED TO UNDERSTAND THEM, RESISTED CHRIST AND
HINDERED THE GOSPEL.....***

***IT ALSO HELPS TO UNDERSTAND THE HISTORY OF THE WORD TALENT....
IN ENGLISH, THE WORD TALENT ORIGINALLY MEANT A "LARGE SUM OF
MONEY" - AS IT DOES IN GREEK...***

***HOWEVER, UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF THIS PARABLE, IT CAME OVER
TIME TO MEAN A "NATURAL CAPACITY FOR SUCCESS IN SOME MENTAL
OR PHYSICAL ACTIVITY" - OUR MEANING TODAY***

THIS IS NOT WHAT MATTHEW HAD IN MIND AT ALL...

***THE TALENTS THAT HE HAD IN MIND IN THIS GOSPEL PASSAGE ARE
OFTEN OVERLOOKED.....***

***AS SIMONE WRITES, "NO ONE HANDS OUT NOBEL PRIZES FOR
GENEROSITY, MEDALS OF HONOR FOR FORGIVENESS OR AN OLYMPIC
MEDAL FOR LOVING AN ENEMY, BUT THIS IS MORE WHAT MATTHEW HAD
IN MIND....***

***I GUESS ALSO, CNN SERIES ON HEROES WOULD BE ALONG THOSE LINES...
THOSE HEROES WOULD BE LIKE THE MAN WITH THE FIVE TALENTS WHO
THEN RECEIVED 5 MORE WHEN THE MASTER RETURNED...***

***WHEN WE TAKE RISKS LIKE THESE, THE WORD OF GOD GROWS
STRONGER IN US AND GROWS IN APPEAL TO OTHERS...***

***WHEN THE MASTER RETURNS, HE WILL WANT TO KNOW WHAT WE DID TO
FURTHER THE COMPASSION, HUMILITY, FREEDOM AND LOVE HE
ENTRUSTED TO US.***

***BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO WILL PLACE AN ABUNDANCE INTO HIS
HANDS...***

THEY WILL RECEIVED AN ABUNDANCE OF THE SAME IN RETURN....

***SO THE CHALLENGE IS NOT TO SIT ON THE MESSAGE, THE WORD OF GOD,
AND BURY IT.....***

***BUT TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE MESSAGE AND GROW IN OUR
RESPONSIVENESS TO IT....***

LIVE OUT OF THE MESSAGE IN OUR LIFE

***SO WHATEVER WE'VE BEEN GIVEN - NATURAL ABILITIES, FINANCIAL
RESOURCES, SPIRITUAL GIFTS - WE WILL HAVE TO RENDER AN
ACCOUNT...***

***LET OUR PRAYER BE THAT WE WILL INVEST OUR GIFTS AND TURN A
PROFIT FOR THE LORD AND ENABLE US TO CONTINUE TO GROW THE JOY
OF HIS KINGDOM***