



This weekend's Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25:14-30) appears to be simple enough to understand: use to the fullest the special gifts which you are given. Is that all that there is to that story or could there be more? We all know someone who complains that his lot in life has not afforded him the opportunity which others have enjoyed. He bemoans his poor start in life: little or no education, never

got a break in life, never met the right people, never found himself in the right place at the right time. The Parable of the Talents speaks about three people in particular whose status in life – that of slave - did not excuse the fact that their master expected each to use to the fullest of his abilities the talents given to him. He commends the first two slaves because they used their talents wisely, but the third he censures because he buried his in the ground. When Jesus speaks to us about talents, we must not think that He means a musical talent or a talent in sports. Such talents are important, and all credit goes to those who possess them, develop them, and use them well. This parable goes a lot deeper, however. Ultimately the only thing which matters to God is what each of us makes of His most sublime gift – life! We are also mistaken in thinking that talent is about making something of ourselves in a materialistic sense, though this is not ruled out entirely. The 'capable wife' spoken about in the First Reading (Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31) could hardly be described as being either successful or famous, yet she is held up to all as a model. Why do you suppose that is? Could it be because of the kind of person she is industrious, caring, wise, and virtuous. She possesses something more valuable in God's sight than wealth or beauty, a loving heart! She has put her talents at the service of her family, of her neighbors, and of the poor. Hence, she has the respect of the entire community and more importantly she has found favor in the sight of God.

Some people choose to do nothing with their talent, however modest, as was the case with the wicked and lazy slave who buried his in the ground. What if a talent in today's gospel has a much greater value than just monetary? What if the talent which God bestows on every human being is in fact to be understood as the gift of time, and each of us is expected to stretch that time to its limits. By this we come to understand then that the talent par excellence is the

length of time itself which God has given to each of us born into this world. We may choose to make nothing of that time as did the wicked and lazy slave, but we must know this: one day we shall be called upon by God to give an account of how we spent it. You see, my friend, like all gifts we are able to use it and to spend as we choose. So then, the message of today is simple: use your gift of time well, a gift enriched with talents of all kinds. Just how grateful you are to God for that gift will depend on how well you put it to good use. We have a lifetime to make our talents bear fruit. The master in the parable was enraged because the slave had not used his talent to bear even the smallest of fruit, who despite what he knew of his master had instead deliberately thwarted his wishes. Today's message reminds each person to take stock of the time received from God and to ask Him how best to employ it so as to spend it wisely, lest we be condemned in the end for having wasted it as was the wicked and lazy slave.

It's a Wasted Life I fear, Not Death!

Chuck Colson tells the following story of visiting Mississippi's Parchman Prison:¹ Most of the



death row inmates were in the bunks wrapped in blankets, staring blankly at the little black-and-white TV screens, killing time. But in one cell a man was sitting on his bunk, reading. As I approached, he looked up and showed me his book and instruction manual on Episcopal liturgy. John Irving, on death row for more than 15 years, was studying for the priesthood. John Irving told me that he was allowed out of his cell one hour each day. The rest of the time, he studies. Seeing that John had nothing in his cell but a few books, I thought: *God blessed me so much, the least I can do is provide something for this brother.* “Would you like a TV if I could arrange it?” I asked. John smile gratefully. “Thanks,” he said, “but no thanks. You can waste an awful lot of time with those things.” For the 15 years since a judge placed a number on his days, John has determined not to waste the one commodity which he had to give to the Lord - his time.

¹ Citation: Charles Colson, *A Dangerous Grace* (Word, 1994).

Where can you go this weekend to Mass? Here are the attendance numbers from last weekend Check it out!			
	SHJ – 5pm Saturday	SJM - 9:15am Sunday	SFA – 11am Sunday
	7 November	8 November	8 November
Placements Available in Church Each Weekend	16	47	16
Parishioners Who Attended Last Weekend	28	73	27
Placements Still Open Last Weekend	0	7	0



Face coverings are now mandatory.

Weekdays

- If you are unable to make it to Mass on Saturday or Sunday, don't forget that we also have a weekday Mass at 9 a.m. in St Francis, Frankford every Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. Before setting out, however, be sure to check the Weekly Parish Bulletin, which is sent with this newsletter, because weekday Mass schedules can sometimes change!

Weekends

- The doors of the church open 30 minutes before the start of Mass.
- Seating is on the basis of first-come-first-seated.
- Upon arriving at the church, please let the usher know how many people are in your group.

Parish Financial Support



Thank you for continuing to help our Parish through these difficult times with both your prayers and generous donations. Your contribution will help to ensure that the Parish can cover its present financial obligations until we are able to resume offering full capacity seating at all our Masses and liturgies.

Here are now 6 ways to donate:

1. Set up an automatic deposit to the Parish bank account – this can be done by calling the Parish at 613-398-6745.
2. Bring your weekly donation envelope (cheque only!) to the Office at 288 Riverside Parkway, Frankford, and leave it in the small black mailbox to the right of the door.
3. Bring your weekly donation envelope (cheque only!) to the St James Church at 236 Edward Street, Stirling, and leave it in the black mailbox to the left of the main door.
4. Send an e-transfer from your account to St Francis of Assisi Parish at email assisifrankford@gmail.com. Then email us at assisi@sympatico.ca to let us know (a) the password which you have chosen for us to access the donation, (b) your first and family names, address, telephone number, and the number on your regular Sunday donation envelope (if you do not have one, let us know that, too).
5. Mail your donation to St Francis of Assisi Parish, PO Box 339, Frankford, ON K0K 2C0
6. At Mass in the Collection Box

