

HOMILY 33RD SUN OT YRA 2017

Oh what a beautiful morning,
Oh what a beautiful day.
I've got a beautiful feeling
everything's going my way.

If you sang this song to yourself every morning, do you think it would affect the way your day goes? I sang this song at a funeral last week because it was the favorite song of the man who went home to the Lord, so I sang it. It had a very healthy philosophy of life. He said that there are no problems in life, only opportunities, and that is how he tried to live each day.

In the Gospel reading we heard a parable. The master was going on a long journey and left the first servant 5 talents, the second 2 talents and the third he left 1 talent, each according to their ability. A talent is a great deal of money. A talent is a great deal of money. The first two servants saw it as an opportunity and made more money. The third servant saw it as a problem and did nothing. The Master represents God, and the first two servants learned from the Master and joined in doing his work. They became more like the Master. And that is what we are called to do, become more like God and join in doing his work. The third servant, out of fear, did nothing with the money. There is nothing in the parable to indicate that the Master was a demanding man. The Master was very generous in giving away his money to the servants. He refused to do the Master's work. I think the third servant created a negative image of the Master out of fear to rationalize doing nothing. The Master excluded him at the end of the parable, but he had actually already excluded himself. Do we have a negative image of God? Do we fear God? Does it prevent us from doing God's work? God sees us whole. He sees us with all the potential we have and loves us unconditionally. He gives us gifts and talents according to our ability, which means that we have the ability to use our gifts and talents to love and serve others. If we do God's work, we have nothing to fear.

I think it is really important to know what our gifts and talents are, and they use them to love and serve others. You may have the gift of being able to earn money. What type of a person do you become? A generous person who does good with the money or do you hoard it for yourself. Which is more like God? One of my gifts is that I can sing. I do not like being the center of attention, and I am still a little uncomfortable getting up and singing, but I know God does not want me to keep that to myself. It is the same with everyone's gifts, and everyone has them.

Actually, I think if we should look at life as having no problems, but only opportunities. The first two servants looked at their talents as opportunities and became better people because of them. The third servant saw the talent as a problem and did nothing out of fear. When something comes into our lives we need to take it to prayer and discern what God is calling you to do, and then do it. Sometimes things work out way better than you thought they would. Sometimes this comes out about the way you planned. These we identify as successes. Sometime it appears to be a failure. But we always learn the most from our failures. And sometimes what appears to be a failure today becomes a success years later. Did you ever look back at a failure that then think: "I am glad that that turned out the way it did or I would not have ended up where I am." I think this is also true of the suffering in our lives. I think it helps to see it as an opportunity. For example, when someone you love dies. The grieving is very painful. But maybe you want to carry on something they did in life. Maybe you want to start something in their memory. Maybe you want to be grandma and grandpa to your grandchildren. It is still painful, but it gives you a new purpose, helps you to go on living. Remember, it is not about the individual accomplishments, it is about the person we become. We want to become more like God. Sing this song every morning changing just one word:

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Oh what a beautiful day.
I've got a beautiful feeling
everything's going GOD'S way.