

THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

November 19, 2017

The Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31 + 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6 + Matthew 25:14-30



Reflection by: Sister Eileen Ivory, OP

Many people understand the talent referred to in this parable as actually being a monetary measurement. However, the word “talent” as recognizable by us as an ability, has a significant meaning of its own in Jesus’ parable. Basically, the gifts we’ve been given are meant to be shared. Another way to interpret what Jesus intended in his lesson has to do with the “haves” and the “have nots.” Sure, two of the laborers were willing to invest freely whereas the third was much more hesitant to the point of being fearful. Perhaps, having the least to start with, he had the most to lose. Be slow to judge might be the caution offered us. It’s easy for those of us who live in relative security to be quick to label the choices others’ circumstances force on them. As we listen to the news, observe our neighbors, critique our co-workers, remember, if we are among the fortunate few who can dare to risk, it most likely has little to do with our own accomplishments but rather to do with the people to whom and the place in which we were born.

Image: Stained glass (detail) from the parable of the Talents, St Edward the Martyr's Church, Corfe Castle, Dorset; Roman Hobler, <https://www.flickr.com/photos/hobler/14236933266>, (CC BY-SA 2.0)