

BRINGING HOME THE GOSPEL

November 19, 2023 • 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time • Matthew 25:14-30

Living Up to Your Potential

Jesus teaches through another story. A man entrusts his servants with his possessions while he is on a journey. The first servant receives five talents; he trades them and ends up with ten. The second received two and also doubles his master's money. The third servant receives one talent, and out of fear, buries it. When the man returned, he punished the third servant for doing nothing with what he was given. He praises the other servants.

Well done, good and trustworthy servant. Aren't those the words we would all like to hear when we face the Lord for our final judgment? I have my own theory about what we have to do to hear those words. I don't think God is going to judge us on what we have done, but on who we have become.

We were each created to be absolutely unique. No two people are made the same. God created each of us with our own set of talents, abilities, and limitations. I think when we face God on the last day, God will say to us, "Have you become the person I created you to be?" When you become the person God created you to be, you are at your best. You become the best parent you can be, the best friend, the best teacher, lawyer, doctor, scientist, writer, designer, assistant, firefighter, or painter.

Think of the world as a giant jigsaw puzzle. Each person represents one piece of the puzzle, and when all the pieces are put together you find the Kingdom of God. But suppose a few pieces decided they didn't like their particular shape and wanted to look like the shapes next to them. Or what if some puzzle pieces decided they wouldn't show up because they weren't sure where they would fit in? It would be

forever before you would get to see the Kingdom of God.

In the parable of the talents, the servant buries the treasure because he is afraid of losing it. He gives into his fear and it ends up costing him everything. Fear that is rooted in an uncertainty of our own worth can be like that. Fear of failure or rejection, or even the fear of being laughed at, can paralyze a person. Don't let that happen to you.

Discover who God created you to be and be that person. Develop your gifts and when it comes time to face your creator you are bound to hear, "Well done."

FAMILY RESPONSE

Ask each person to answer the question, "What do I think God wants from me?"

PERSONAL RESPONSE

What are some of your particular talents, gifts, and limitations? What do you want to remember from last week? What are you looking forward to next week? What are your concerns?