

### **33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time - Matthew 25:14-30**

How many psychiatrists does it take to change a light bulb? One, but it's a slow and tedious process and the light bulb has to really *want* to be changed.

There's the rub. Change is difficult, and there are few of us here who welcome it in our lives. When we possess something which is good, we want to hold onto it just as it is.

When we are in a caring and supportive relationship, we don't want new ideas or new goals to start shifting things around.

When we are comfortable in our surroundings, secure in our environment, we do not want to contemplate a change of place or circumstances. The common cry of humanity is, "Things are fine just as they are. Don't ask me to adjust. Don't ask me to change."

This resistance to change is what makes today's gospel parable so important. The whole point of the Gospel today is that we cannot keep the good things that we now have simply by holding onto them.

Thinking that we can preserve the persons and circumstances in our life just as they are today is as foolish as the slave in today's parable thinking he could please his master by burying money in the ground.

To hold onto the good that we have today forever is impossible. We need to be willing to let go, to risk, to let things change.

If we don't let go, if we don't invest what we have, we lose it. This is true of relationships. The people in our life are always changing. Our children change from infants to teenagers to adults.

Unless we are willing to change with them, we lose them. The relationship we have with a spouse or a friend is in flux with new ideas and new directions.

Unless we are willing to grow with them, we get left behind. Aging changes us. Our energy and health shift as the years advance. To think that we can live today as we lived thirty years ago renders us out of touch and foolish.

Our world is always morphing around us, a new job, a new home, a new set of expectations. We open our quarterly financial report and realize that we have to rethink what we can spend and what retirement is going to look like.

Our bishop asked many parishes to evaluate and re-envision what parish life is by imagining partnering with another parish or becoming a Mission or being merged with another parish. Our president tells us that life is not going to be the same because of the threat of terrorism.

Whether we like it or not, the world around us is changing and we are expected to change as well. **To live is to change, and to live well is to change often.**

Now knowing this does not necessarily make it easier because every change involves risk. But, the good news in today's parable is this: every servant who was willing to take that risk succeeded admirably.

The only servant who failed was the one who deluded himself into thinking that he could avoid risk by holding onto what he had and burying his master's money in the ground.

In the end, change is not the enemy. Fear is. Letting go of the good things we now have will not destroy us. Pretending that we can keep things exactly as they are, will.

Change is difficult, but it is a part of life and a part of God's plan. The Gospel today calls us to face the changes in our life with hope.

We are asked to imitate the example of the faithful servants and believe that God will not give us more than we can handle. Take the risk.

Be willing to let go of the things you now have, and let them grow. This is the only way to live. This is the only way that we will ever hear Christ say to us, "Well done, good and faithful servant. Enter into your master's joy." AMEN.