

THIRTY-THIRD WEEK OF ORDINARY TIME
November 19, 2023

Gospel: (Matthew 25: 14-30)

Jesus told his disciples this parable: *“A man going on a journey called in his servants and entrusted his possessions to them. To one he gave five talents; to another, two; to a third one—each according to his ability. Then he went away. Immediately the one who received five talents went and traded with them, and made another five. Likewise, the one who received two made another two. But the man who received one went off and dug a hole in the ground and buried his master’s money.”*

Reflection:

The wealth of God has no limits; neither are there limits to what God shares with us. What a remarkable God! What kind of master entrusts his slaves with this kind of wealth? What kind of God shares divine life with adopted children? Ultimately this is what Jesus has been trying to tell us all these Sundays in these parable about the kingdom. God lavishes on us divine Life. God Life isn’t a quantity to be measured, however, like talents. God’s Life is a relationship that can never be exhausted. The curious thing about God’s generosity with God’s Life is that the richer in it we become, the more likely we are to be faithful in the small matters so we can grow in what we already have. The shock of this gospel is the extravagance of what is being given us. All we need do is be faithful in “small matters.” The cost of fidelity has no comparison to the reward given. (Living Liturgy, p.276)

Vincentian Meditation:

A man appeared before Saint Peter, who asked him, “Where are your wounds?” The man replied, “I have no wounds.” To which Peter rejoined, “Was there no passion in your life, no cause in which you spent and risked yourself that would invite scars?” Frederic had a passion in his life—the passion for truth. He had the scars to prove it—scars sustained because of the promise he had made to God to give his life to the service of the truth. Frederic’s passion for truth manifested itself in his loving adherence to the Catholic faith; in his professional work of study, writing, and teaching; and in his ministry with other Vincentians to the needs of poor people. Frederic’s passion and mission was for truth and the service of the poor. He believed the truths of his faith were absolutes, made clearer through prayer and study. Frederic wrote, “Truth has no need of me; but I have need of it.” (Ramson, Praying with Frederic, p.43,46)

Discussion: (*Share thoughts on the readings after a moment of silence*)

What is the “passion in your life”?

Closing Prayer:

O God, give us the grace to have a “passion” in our life,
-so that we may use the talents you have given to us.

O God, give us the grace to be faithful Vincentians,
-walking in the footsteps of Vincent and Frederic. Amen

