

**33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time “A”
2017**

I'm not sure when we get old enough to realize that what are parents were telling us as kids was almost always right. They really weren't trying to ruin our lives – or make our lives miserable. They weren't trying to embarrass us – or make everyone hate us. They were looking out for us and calling us to be the best people that we could be. That's what good parents do.

I can remember my folks telling me that I didn't put enough effort into a project – even though I got the darn thing done. I can remember being told that I didn't try hard enough in one of my classes – even though I had more than just passed. I remember being told that I had to do more than just the bare minimum to be part of a family – I was supposed to offer everything that I had. All of this seemed so oppressive and it seemed as if my Mom and Dad were out to derail my plans for my life.

Although I can remember these things very well, I have a difficult time remembering when all that my parents said began to make sense. I wish I could remember when it all clicked, when all of the talks about not holding back – the talks about the responsibilities that come along with the gifts we receive – when all the talks about giving 110% really began to change who I was – but they did work. And, of course now I realize what geniuses my parents were.

This reading seems very clear – and really important. Jesus is telling a parable that still needs little explanation. And one that we typically understand – it is the best stewardship talk that has ever been given. It's clear – concise – and it's challenging. Just like talks that our parents used to have with us.

Everything that we've comes from God. Some of us are blessed with a little – some with a great deal. Whatever we have been given – however we define our talents –

abilities – or gifts – Jesus is reminding us today by this parable that we must not hold on to them and bury them – but use them and watch them increase.

Whether you believe this or not – because you sacrifice each week and come here to worship – you become an example that leads others here too. When you are generous – you encourage others to become the same way. When you offer yourself – even when you're not sure it will make any difference – please know that it does. We must model the stewardship of God's gifts to each other. We must know that Jesus, like our folks, is challenging us to be the best people that we can be – calling us to give it our all – to invest what we have in our community of faith and watch that community thrive.

Let's pray that this story from Jesus will click for us today. May we understand our responsibility to offer all that God has given us for the benefit of all people. So that when our time comes to meet our God, we may hear these words from his mouth, *“Well done, my good and faithful servant. Come, share your master's joy.”*

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