Homily for the 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time 2026 Year A

There is a side to all of us which identifies with the insecurity of the man in today's Gospel, who was severely punished for his laziness in not using God's gifts.

He was so wrapped up in himself and his own personal concerns that he failed to face up to his responsibilities.

By the end of his days, he had nothing to show for all his years on earth because he did not avail himself of all the opportunities which came his way.

His life was not the success story it might have been, as he was mean in the service of God, and showed little or no enthusiasm for Christian living. On his day of reckoning the excuses he put forward for his failure were feeble in the Lord's eyes and did not impress.

That Gospel is forthright and reminds us of the blunt truth that the gifts of God are not ours to dispense with as we please. Neither does it suffice just to hide them away, leave them safe and unused, or allow them to wither.

As Christians, by our baptismal calling, we are all in the business of spreading the Kingdom of God. Christ came to serve, and the service of others helps us to grow in His image and likeness.

Whatever our gifts happen to be, and we all have a variety, we are expected to make full use of all of them for God's glory and help establish God's Kingdom. This is a serious call to be energetic in living the Gospel.

The simple message of this Gospel is to live life to the full, make a great deal more of it, tackle it positively and with enthusiasm, by reaching out beyond our own selfish little world, and taking the risk of sharing something of ourselves with others.

Is it not true to say that the times when we receive and experience true happiness and real satisfaction, are those when we find ourselves completely absorbed in caring for the needy, or supporting a worthwhile cause?

In a real sense we come closer to God when we help to further the growth of His Kingdom on earth by our actions.

To be honest, sometimes our failure to use our talents to the full can be based upon a poor self-image; we falsely believe that we have nothing to offer. But think again: the strains and tensions that come from the dull and monotonous routine of rearing a family, shopping, cleaning, working in the kitchen, or earning our daily living, may not always bring an immediate sense of personal satisfaction, or fulfilment, nor make spectacular headlines, but there is no denying the level of sacrifice involved.

The little things are important, and it is the lord who will reward us the faithful carrying out of our responsibilities in those matters. These ordinary deeds of love offered for the benefit of others may not seem to matter much, but they are very important in the eyes of God.

Very few of us will be given the opportunity or performing the spectacular, but never forget we will be remembered for all of our little daily acts of decency and kindness, which we regard as nothing special.

Our ordinary routine work, when done with enthusiasm and a willing heart, helps the love of God be made visible in the dark corners of our lives. We all have talents, gifts, and opportunities from God while time is still with us.

If we make it our conscious intention to do as well as we can, whatever job we're carrying out, if we try to avoid apathy and the ‘couldn't care less’ approach, then in this way we can offer back to our Father the lives given to us, but considerably more fulfilled and enriched.