

INVEST IN OUR FAITH TO REAP A REWARD IN HEAVEN

To be spiritually lazy and not bother to pray or go to Mass, is to bury the talent of faith and vocation, that God gave us in baptism. The source of the talent is the Church. The Kingdom of Heaven and the Spirit of Truth are established in each one of us in baptism. To bury Truth is to be an unfaithful soul, becoming useless in God's eyes. They sadly will not reach Heaven. Jesus said to throw the *unfaithful lazy good-for-nothing servant, out into the dark [hell], where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth* (Matt 25:14-30). Jesus advises us to invest the talents of the Church, love and mercy, on each other, with no exception. This investment will reap a reward that will profit our souls in Heaven.

FEAR THE DAY OF JUDGEMENT

To multiply a talent produces Peace. We are called by God to forgive at all cost. To not forgive is to imitate the *lazy good-for-nothing servant* and bury the talent, which was his ability to forgive. Forgiveness does not make us weak, but sets us free from sin, and heals fractured relationships. Many people allow Satan to plant a selfish and unhealthy fear in their hearts, which results in laziness. The Bible teaches us to have a fear of the day of judgement, in order, to motivate us to work for God. Fear of the Lord is when we are always conscience that our loving Father is watching and evaluating everything we think, say, and do (Matt 12:36). He says, I know your works (Rev 2:1-6). Nothing escapes His attention. A respectful fear of the Lord, is when we recognise that God is Almighty and All Powerful (Rev 11:17), and will judge us beyond the grave. To fear God is to have a continual awareness and reverence for Him, with a sincere commitment to obey His Commandments. The fear of God is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction (Proverb 1:7). Our tongues are a form of talent, given to us to praise God and each other. To use it boldly is to waste the talent of sacred time. We must practice our faith by allowing it to grow like the mustard seed (Matt 17:20-21).

STOP DIGGING A HOLE TO HELL

In the first reading (Proverbs 31:10-13), the 'perfect wife... who opens her arms to the poor and needy' refers to the coming of the Church: the Bride/Wife of Christ. While the Church is perfect, we, the members are not. However, we must strive to become perfect in holiness. We are to *stay wide awake and sober* to serve God (1 Thess 5:1-6). It is not acceptable in God's eyes to ignore the Church, because it is the mystical Body of Christ on earth. To bury the Church in one's lifetime, is to dig a hole directly into hell. Like the three servants, we do not have talents of the same degree. The servant who received one talent was not condemned for failing to reach the five-talent goal, but was condemned, because he did nothing with what he was given. He ignored the faith, by burying it in a sinful way of life. Everybody's vocation is to go and work in the missionary field, as labourers of the Word of God. Our purpose is to produce and increase the seed of faith in our souls and those of others. We are all given the talent to invest in evangelising and praying. It's our choice, whether we utilise our time, to please God or to please the devil. This parable is also very much directed at Priests and Bishops. If we bury the Truth and preach nonsense that is contrary to the Gospel, then, we too, will be in trouble, when the Master returns from abroad at the Second Coming. God bless, Fr. Brendan.