



Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of Peace

Cathedral of the Honolulu Diocese • Founded 1843 • National Historic Register

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

November 19, 2023

Beloved Disciples of Christ,

Greetings of peace, love, and joy!

“Accountability to God”

We are soon ending our liturgical cycle. With the coming celebration of Christ the King to culminate this cycle, we are here to reflect on the coming days of the Lord. We believe in the coming of the Kingdom, where Jesus will reign and judge the nations. With that, we must prepare and be accountable to our Lord for everything He entrusted us.

This Sunday, we hear the Parable of the Talents. The master entrusted his possessions to his servants. To one, he gave five talents. To another, two, and the third, one talent. Talent is huge, and in today’s currency, it is worth fifteen years’ worth of wages. To other biblical scholars, they say that it could even be twenty years. Although we may consider the amount as an essential part of the story, what matters more is the trust the master had for his servants. On one hand, to be trusted, either five, two, or one talent was the core of the story. On the other hand, it was how the servants used these talents. Two of them made use of it responsibly, but one did not.

The parable can be applied to all of us. Since the beginning, God has entrusted us with many talents through blessings or gifts. Specifically, the gifts of time, talent, and treasure. With these blessings, God expects us to use them and not to be kept selfishly but dispose of them selflessly. Our ways of sharing God’s gifts are measured by how we can use them, specifically that of building God’s Kingdom here on earth. The problem with us sometimes is that we think all we have is our own doing, recognizing our lives as our own. Ordinary experiences in life teach us that life has its end and that we do not even know when that day and time will come. But because Jesus showed us that life on earth is temporary, we need to do whatever we can to share the life Jesus has in glory. This time, entering that life is not measured by degrees of honor, beauty, or wealth but by our sincerity to God’s ways and teachings. That is using His wonderful gifts of Time, Talent, and Treasure.

The parable helps us reflect on our responsibilities to God and Neighbor. How accountable are we making use of God’s gift to us? Have we used what was entrusted to us since the beginning of our life? Or have we become like the last servant who kept it for himself? Our role in this life depends on the responsibilities we are entrusted with. What matters now is not how big or small these may be but how we can keep our tasks or roles fruitfully and effectively. In the end, we are all accountable to God. And when that day and time will come, will we hear Him say, “Well done, good and faithful servant”?

On another note, allow me to express my heartfelt gratitude to all. You have shown and shared so many blessings to our Cathedral Basilica. Please be assured of my continued prayers for you, your family, and your aspirations through God’s grace and abundance. I say, with much Love and Aloha, HAPPY THANKSGIVING DAY!

Your friend in Jesus,

Fr. Pascual