

Homily

Sunday 33 (A)

19 November 2017

So, God is a capitalist then? Investments here and investments there, keeping close tabs on his employees and tenants, the rich getting richer and the poor getting poorer. Indeed, *from the man who had not, even what he has will be taken away*. And all aided and abetted by *a perfect wife....always busy with wool and with flax, doing her work with eager hands*.

The currency that this capitalist worked with translates as “*talents*”. So maybe this parable isn’t about money after all. We all have particular gifts and talents. So maybe what this parable is really all about is how each one of us uses those God-given gifts and talents. Have we buried them in the ground, or have we used them for God’s glory and for the benefit of those around us?

But, I must confess, I’m still not convinced. *The Kingdom of heaven is like a man on his way abroad who summoned his servants and entrusted his property to them*. What is this ‘*property*’ that he entrusts? He does give us pounds, shillings and pence and he does give us individual talents and gifts, but much more than that he gives us *his property*. What is God’s property? Surely that property is his very substance and being, his total love and mercy, the gift of Himself in the Eucharist, his repeated acts of forgiveness, his understanding and tolerance, the complete giving of Himself. This is what our God is – total self-giving, total compassion. This is the currency in which our God deals. This is the property, the talents that we have been given.

The question remains: What have we done with this property, with these talents? Have we buried them in the ground? Have we just kept them to ourselves? Have we been reluctant to share, setting up instead rules and regulations to ration and regulate them?

And the context of all of this is the urgency of the task. *The Day of the Lord is going to come like a thief in the night....as suddenly as labour pains....on a pregnant woman*. No amount of churchiness, no amount of busyness, no amount of good works can protect us from *the Day of the Lord*. What have you done with God’s personal gift of Himself to you? What have I done with that gift? What has the Church done with that gift? The best investment is to be like Jesus, to hold nothing back and to give away our very substance and being, to become the *good and faithful servant* who comes to join in his master’s happiness.

So, not a capitalist, not an importer of talents, but the gift of Love itself, the gift of life eternal, the gift of true joy *all the days of your life*.

Fr Michael