

Matthew 25-14. The Parable of the Talents
Deacon Rick Moser

I horse walked into a bar and sat down.

The bartender came over and said, "Why the long face?"

I'm not really trying to be funny, but I know that beneath those masks, many of you are hiding a "long face." I was, too!

You've had it "up to here" of Covid-19, the restrictions,

- The unbearable changes to our lives.
- You're "sick at heart" with our political situation, the endless relentless lies, the riots, the looting, the lies, the ugliness, the hatred, the lies, the evils of abortion, the lies, the closed economy and the "world."
- You're afraid of what the future will bring.

And then, we have an "**election!**"

- You vote, you hear the results and you go on.
- No, you see fraud and hear more lies!
- We feel like we're walking on a razor thin precipice, in flip-flops and there is a sheer cliff on each side.
- Either way that this election is decided, it's going to be worse than it is now.

I truly sorry if I'm making it worse!

But, the reality is:

There is this Guy, this person of Pure Evil, his name is Lucifer, the Devil, Satan, the Beast. He has been and always is at war with us, because he hates us, he hates God because God created us in Love and for Love

It seems to me, at times, as though the Devil actually has a virtue, "patience,"

- ✓ but it's not patience - it's prolonged plotting and demonic cunning
- ✓ He will connive, lie, plot and plan for centuries to destroy God's Creation, especially us!
- ✓ From the beginning, he was a murderer and a the Father of Lies.
- ✓ BUT, for the last 500 years, he has put His Master Plan in place,
- ✓ one slippery slope after another, one lie after another, one deceitful ISM, humanism, relativism, atheism, secular humanism, after another and it's all coming to fruition now.
- ✓ And he wants us to eat the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil again.
- ✓ AND, he's having fantastic success.
- ✓ Half the world has readily eaten their fill of the poison fruit
- ✓ Sadly, it seems that evil is winning. At times, it seems that evil has already won.
- ✓ He's so devious and he's has prepared for such a long - that now
- ✓ It's all right out in the open, and people still eat it up, and they want more and more.
- ✓ Evil is now good, abortion is a sacrament, crimes are just mistakes, lies are truth.
- ✓ What is truly good is now bad.

✓ People believe that Church, morality, virtue, chastity, life... Are all wrong!
We watch this and we wonder, "Don't people know, don't they get it." Don't they see it.
That Oligarches, socialists, atheists, communists, pagans, they all want to control the world,
achieve a One-World government, **destroy the Church** - and unfortunately, they have great
power and money, they control the media, academia and they are in charge.
Is there any help?
Is there anything we can we do? Pause here for a moment.

Let me give you an example of another terrible event and what was done.

In 622, Mohammed, the father of Islam, set out from Medina to conquer the whole Christian world for Allah with a force of arms.

✓ When Muhammad, died ten years later, in 632,
✓ he had conquered most of the Arabian peninsula

One century later:

- ★ Islam had conquered ALL the Middle East, North Africa, Spain and southern France
- ★ In 732, they were driven from Southern France by Charles Martel back into Spain,
- ★ Then it took Spain over seven hundred years to finally drive them out of Spain, the year was 1492.
- ★ In the past few years, Moslems have killed hundreds of Spaniards in Madrid to avenge their loss in 1492.
- ★ For a 1000 years, there was a constant battle against Islam to keep Europe Christian.
- ★ In 1571, the Moslems had all the Middle East, Asia Minor, Greece and the Balkans.
- ★ They had huge naval battles in the Mediterranean for 600 years, and now they were moving in for the kill.
- ★ All Europe was their target and Italy was first.
- ★ The Moslems had a huge, ferocious navy and army and they were skilled at their job
- ★ The Christian army and navy were much, much smaller, decimated by the rise of Protestant nations, and they were not as skilled, or as ruthless, as the Moslems.
- ★ Europe faced an impossible situation.

Not only would they loose Europe but the people would be slaughtered or enslaved.

Just like now, Christianity and civilization were threatened with unparalleled disaster.

What did the Christians of Europe do?

- ★ Pope St. Pius V asked them to start praying the Rosary every day.
- ★ On the day of the historic battle, The Christian Navy and army met the Far superior navy and army of the Moslems in the Adriatic Sea off Lepanto.
- ★ A great deciding battle was about to be fought for Western civilization, Christianity and our future was at stake as well.
- ★ As the battle began, a fierce wind, a hurricane force wind, came up but only affected the Moslem fleet. The Moslems were sounding defeated by the ragtag Christian forces.
- ★ That day, October 7, was proclaimed by Pope St. Pius V, as the **Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary**.

So, here we are now... facing a battle for our lives, for our faith and for the future of our Christian civilization.

What do we do? Pray the Rosary for sure, but what else can we do?

We can remember that God knows everything. He created everything and everyone. And everything is within God's Divine Providence.

We should also ask ourselves one question: If God knows everything and can do everything, Why did God put us, each one of us, here at this time, in this place and in this situation? It is not an accident. What does God want us to do?

Look to today's Gospel:

- ★ Each of us have a distinct and unique purpose in this world, today and everyday.
- ★ We are blessed with God-given gifts and talents to accomplish that God-given purpose.
- ★ God has given these gifts to us, and we are free to either:
- ★ squander our gifts, burying them in the hole of self-indulgence, fear, laziness, and greed,
- ★ or we can use them as Christ would have us use them,
- ★ which happens to be the secret to happiness in this life and the life to come.

In this fallen world, most people tend to think of themselves as the center of the universe.

**But, we are not God; and
we are not the center of the world;**

We are dependent upon God for everything and our purpose in this life is to know him, love him, and serve him. Only by doing that, will we find the happiness we desire, because doing that, is what we were created for.

- ◆ Puppies were created to be cute and lick our noses.
- ◆ Humans were created to know, to love, and to serve God.

And what is our greatest gift that we all share?

- ★ We are members of Christ's Mystical Body.
- ★ When Jesus entered the Garden of Gethsemane, He prayed and suffered. He took upon Himself our sins.
- ★ Not only our sins but the guilt of them.
- ★ He could only take our guilt upon Himself if we ONE.
- ★ At the Last Supper, Jesus instituted the Priesthood, the Mass (which was foreshadowed for centuries in the Passover)
- ★ and He instituted the Holy Eucharist.
- ★ In the Holy Eucharist, the Apostles became the Body of Christ,
- ★ the Mystical Body of Christ.
- ★ In our Baptism and Holy Eucharist, we, too, become the Body of Christ.
- ★ And through Confirmation, our initiation is complete.

What does our membership in the Body of Christ do to our gifts and talents?

- ★ It sanctifies our gifts and gives us the Gifts of the Holy Spirit and enables us to do God's Will in the World.
- ★ And when we seriously sin, we can return to the Body through Reconciliation.

Whether we are parents, students, teachers, medical professionals, 1st responders, military, business people.

Whether we are prayers, good friends, helpers, we have all the Power of God within us. Using our talents and gifts can and will change the world.

Today, when see and hear what is going on, we say, ***“But, it isn't fair, that's against the law, that's cheating, they can't do that, how can they get away with it.”***

We have to remember: “When has the world ever been fair, or good, especially now, when after centuries of devious planning, Satan can smell victory. He will never capitulate” Until, that is, Our Blessed Mother crushes his skull.

But for us,

- ★ Stay in the State of Grace.
- ★ Use your gifts and talents.
- ★ Receive the Eucharist often, even if you have to come to a weekday Mass, where there are fewer people.
- ★ Pray the Rosary and
- ★ Be Not Afraid!

Now:

- ★ Let us turn now to this Eucharistic Sacrifice,
- ★ Let's offer ourselves to the Father with Jesus
- ★ Receive Our Lord in the Eucharist
- ★ Become Him
- ★ Let Him become us
- ★ And let Him leave this Church with us.
- ★ So, that we can change the “World” one person at a time.

And ask Our Lord to change our “long faces” into smiles.