

Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

My beloved brothers and sisters, the point of the story that Jesus tells us is quite simple: the irresponsible servant in the story was cast out into the darkness because he failed to fulfill his life's mission. However, we must ask ourselves the central question: Why did he fail? He had a simple option, he could have banked the treasure of his master and let it grow. But he did not! Why did he fail? Because, he had the wrong idea and attitude about his master. He feared him like a slave! Perhaps he even resented him because he had been given so little; nonetheless, in both cases, his attitude was centered in self, and not in service. His fear and self-centeredness paralyzed him and kept him from doing what he was meant to do in his life mission!

My beloved brothers and sisters, one of the greatest tactics of the devil today, is not all of the things we see eroding our society and our morals; rather, it is the temptation to fear. It is the same deception that was present in the Garden of Eden. Adam and Eve thought that God was withholding something from them. They thought that God was harsh, and unjust! It provided for them and for us the excuse for cowering before God and failing to do His Will for us, which is rooted in the Infinite goodness, mercy and love of God for us as His beloved ones. This promotes an attitude of paucity, of spiritual laziness, self-pity, and we then tend to wallow in self-pity.

St. Paul tells us that Jesus is the Image of the Father. If we want to know what our Father in Heaven thinks of us, look at the life of Jesus: He is patient, good, generous, and an infinitely loving King! He proved this by His self-sacrifice on the cross! He also constantly taught it by the clarity of His teaching about the Divine Mercy. He shows us by His ministry of healing and mercy; but, He also shows us that as His beloved family, we are called to use our gifts for the Growth of His Divine Kingdom, shaping the world in which we live. We begin at home, then into the Community of Believers and then the society in which we live!

Jesus also teaches us that our eternal destiny is based upon our positive effort in this life to make a difference with the gifts that God has placed in us; we are only stewards of these gifts, including the gift of life itself! I cannot keep these gifts to

myself. This is called selfishness! It is the exact opposite of God and His love. And this is my true purpose and end in my life! How I live out this purpose will determine my final end: if I live for God and His people, I will continue to live in God and with His beloved people, in His fullness forever. This is Heaven! If I live in selfishness, my life will continue to spiral into itself for eternity; and this is Hell. This is the God we believe in, the God of infinite love who wants us to succeed and gives us the time of this life in order to succeed and become the fire of love for Him and for others!