

Time and Talents Sunday Liturgy 17th September 2017

Offering our Lives to God



The Parable of the Talents

“Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your Lord.” (Matthew 25:21)

St. Aidan’s Orthodox Church, Manchester

TIME AND TALENTS SUNDAY LITURGY – 17th SEPTEMBER

Here are some basic principles of the Christian life:- (THE 6 PRINCIPLES)

1. We all have a calling from the Lord to serve Him in the Church and in the world.
2. We all can find out what that calling is by being fully involved in the Church and by prayer.
3. We need to obey God's call when it comes and not delay.
4. God always offers us His gifts, wisdom, grace and power to serve Him. The Holy Spirit is never lacking in His faithfulness.
5. In faith we need to trust God, deny ourselves and step forward in His service. We must be active followers of Christ.
6. Love, and love only will be the measure by which we are judged.

WHAT SHOULD I DO BEFORE TIME AND TALENTS SUNDAY?

Just like our “sister” Sunday, Thanksgiving Sunday, please take time during the next two weeks to pray about your calling to serve God through His Church. You will probably be offering your service already, both in the Church and in the World. Now, however, is the time to pause, think and pray about God's unfolding will in your life. These are some of the questions you could ask yourself prayerfully. They follow the “The 6 Principles” listed above:

- a. How can I strengthen and deepen what I already do to serve God?
- b. What should I do to get more involved in Church life? What sacrifices might I have to make?
- c. Am I listening to God enough in my prayers? What is my call now?
- d. To follow my call, what gifts do I have from God that I can thank Him for? What do I lack that I should ask Him for?
- e. What plan of action should I draw up, prayerfully, to move forward as an active disciple of Christ?
- f. What should I do now - both to know and show the Love of God better?

WHAT WILL HAPPEN ON TIME AND TALENTS SUNDAY?

At the end of the Liturgy on **Sunday 17th September** we will all receive a card to complete in silence (just like Thanksgiving Sunday). On this card you will be able to write whatever you like about your call to serve God.

*This will only be seen by Fr Gregory and Fr Emmanuel,
no one else!*

There will be three sections on this card:-

1. How do I already serve God in the Church and in the World?
2. What new things might God be calling me to do for Him, in the Church and/or the World?
3. What do I need from God and His Church to help me follow my call?

There will be a box at the bottom of this card which will read:

“I do not feel able to answer these questions at this time.”

If you tick that box you can leave the rest of the card blank, including your name if you so wish.

Are you saying to yourself? - “ ... but I can't do anything important!”

Remember this - if you think that your service to God is too ordinary, humble or lowly. As George Herbert wrote in one of his poems:

*The one who sweeps a room, as for God's laws,
makes that and the action fine!*

PLEASE PRAY that God's will may be done in your life!

Thank you and God bless you.

Father Gregory

The Parable of the Talents

¹⁴ “For the kingdom of heaven is like a man travelling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them. ¹⁵ And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey. ¹⁶ Then he who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents. ¹⁷ And likewise he who had received two gained two more also. ¹⁸ But he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and hid his lord’s money. ¹⁹ After a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them.

²⁰ “So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, ‘Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.’ ²¹ His lord said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’ ²² He also who had received two talents came and said, ‘Lord, you delivered to me two talents; look, I have gained two more talents besides them.’ ²³ His lord said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’

²⁴ “Then he who had received the one talent came and said, ‘Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed. ²⁵ And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, there you have what is yours.’

²⁶ “But his lord answered and said to him, ‘You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed. ²⁷ So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest. ²⁸ Therefore take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents. ²⁹ ‘For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away. ³⁰ And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’”
(Matthew 25:14-30)

Equipping the Saints

¹¹ And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, ¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, ¹³ till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ. ... (Ephesians 4:11-13)

All Called to Serve

⁹ But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;