



“Sir, your gold coin has earned ten additional ones”

(Lk 19, 16).

Today’s Gospel presents us with the parable of the gold coins or talents, an amount of money that a noble man distributes among his servants before leaving for a distant land. Let us first turn our attention to the circumstances leading Jesus to tell this parable. He “was near” Jerusalem, where His passion and resurrection awaited Him, but the disciples thought that the kingdom of God would appear there immediately.

Under these circumstances, Jesus offered this parable, teaching us that we have to put the gifts and talents that He has given us – or rather, entrusted us – to work. They do not belong to us, so we cannot do as we please with them. He has entrusted them to us so that they yield a return.

Christians should thus await their Lord Jesus’ return, but on two conditions:

- The first is to avoid any unhealthy curiosity about the timing of the Lord’s solemn and victorious return. He will come, another Gospel passage states, when we least expect it. Speculation on

this topic is thus off limits! Let us wait in hope, but with confident longing and without unhealthy curiosity.

- The second condition is that we not waste our time. Awaiting this meeting and ultimate happiness cannot be an excuse for not taking the present seriously. The greater the contribution of each of us to the cause of the kingdom of God in the present world, the greater the joy and happiness of the ultimate encounter.

Jesus was not far from Jerusalem where He would be crucified, where He would give His life to save us. We were created in the image and likeness of God. Our life is both human and divine. It needs to grow in resemblance to God as manifested by Jesus. The face of God our Father appears in Jesus as in broad daylight, a face of absolute tenderness and goodness.

We believe that the kingdom has already come. It is ours when we walk down the path of the victory of love. A talent, a coin, has two sides. The first might have a human face, the second, that of the divinity of the time: our face should become the face of Jesus!

God reigns in our heart, and we strive to shine forth His love in our life. This is the meaning of these gold coins, of this gift. These coins are earned in Christ! For them to yield a return, they must be placed at the service of others!

Out of love, Jesus would give His life in Jerusalem to save us and thus glorify the Father who loves us. In our life, we want to follow Him and place ourselves at the school of His loving passion. Only together can we work wonders. God does not give us all the coins, all the talents. When we place ours at the service of others, they gradually increase. We need each other to live in community.

During this Eucharist, we ask Jesus to give us His Spirit of wisdom and humility to use our talents well and make them bear fruit. We should become aware of our dormant talents. God wants to fill our heart with His love so that He might reign there as a loving, gentle and humble king.

Here in Saint Nicolas-des-Champs Church, let these words of Saint Vincent to Saint Louise resonate in us: “***The spirit of God urges one gently to do the good that can be done reasonably, so that it may be done perseveringly and for a long time. Act, therefore, in this way, Mademoiselle, and you will be acting according to the spirit of God***” (CCD I, 96).