

## Knights of Columbus Lecture #6

In Today's Gospel we are told the parable of the talents, where a master going on a journey entrusts his possessions to his servants; to one he gives five talents, to another two, and to another he gave one. We all know the story: the servants who were given five and two talents went off and invested and multiplied them, and the one who was given one talent simply buried his talent neither increasing nor decreasing the amount that was given to him.

When the master returned, he saw that of his servants had gone off and multiplied their talents, he said, "well done, my good and faithful servants. Since you have been faithful in small matters I will give you great responsibilities." All of us are here seeking to work towards our vocation, working towards what each one of us believes we are being called to do, striving to do work that will allow us to use and multiply the talents we have been given. Whether we are studying politics, social work, history, philosophy, theology, business, engineering, education, physics, chemistry, biology, or even working towards the priesthood, we're all preparing ourselves for a vocation we will carry out for a very large portion of our lives, some way to use our talents.

In the Gospel parable the servants are given talents, money, by their master. It's pretty likely that this money was a type of coin, and like a coin our vocation has two sides. One side of this coin takes advantage of our talents and passions, while the other takes advantage of our humanity. This side of the coin is much more important than the first, and that is the gift of yourself. Not yourselves, yourself, as in each one of you. By choosing to give yourself you are giving yourself to either the family life, the religious life, or the priestly life.

If there's one thing my college experience has taught me it's that most of the things that are worth doing are anything but easy. If school is just a taste of the real world then we can tell that carrying out our vocations will probably be, it may be a struggle, but we each have the ability to do incredible, meaningful things with the talents we've been given. When life gets difficult I often think a recording I heard of Steve Jobs several years ago in which he says, "Sometimes life hits you in the head with a brick. Don't lose faith."

So at the end of the day, remember that if we spend our time well; if we multiply our talents to the best of our ability, we will be welcomed by a master who will greet us with the words, "well done, good and faithful knight."