

Daily Reflections



Center for Spiritual Development

STEP OUT IN FAITH

By Lucy Dominguez

Today's Gospel

*While people were listening to Jesus speak,
he proceeded to tell a parable because he was near Jerusalem
and they thought that the Kingdom of God
would appear there immediately.*

So he said,

*"A nobleman went off to a distant country
to obtain the kingship for himself and then to return.*

*He called ten of his servants and gave them ten gold coins
and told them, 'Engage in trade with these until I return.'*

*His fellow citizens, however, despised him
and sent a delegation after him to announce,*

'We do not want this man to be our king.'

*But when he returned after obtaining the kingship,
he had the servants called, to whom he had given the money,
to learn what they had gained by trading.*

The first came forward and said,

'Sir, your gold coin has earned ten additional ones.'
He replied, 'Well done, good servant!
You have been faithful in this very small matter;
take charge of ten cities.'
Then the second came and reported,
'Your gold coin, sir, has earned five more.'
And to this servant too he said,
'You, take charge of five cities.'
Then the other servant came and said,
'Sir, here is your gold coin;
I kept it stored away in a handkerchief,
for I was afraid of you, because you are a demanding man;
you take up what you did not lay down
and you harvest what you did not plant.'
He said to him,
'With your own words I shall condemn you,
you wicked servant.
You knew I was a demanding man,
taking up what I did not lay down
and harvesting what I did not plant;
why did you not put my money in a bank?
Then on my return I would have collected it with interest.'
And to those standing by he said,
'Take the gold coin from him
and give it to the servant who has ten.'
But they said to him,
'Sir, he has ten gold coins.'
He replied, 'I tell you,
to everyone who has, more will be given,
but from the one who has not,
even what he has will be taken away.
Now as for those enemies of mine who did not want me as their king,
bring them here and slay them before me.'"
After he had said this,
he proceeded on his journey up to Jerusalem.

LUKE 19:11-28

Reflection

This parable, rich in symbolism, challenges us to consider how we respond to what God entrusts to us. Jesus shares this story on the way to Jerusalem, a

reminder that his mission is unfolding amidst misunderstandings and expectations about the Kingdom of God. Many of his listeners expected an immediate, visible Kingdom, yet Jesus describes one that requires patience, trust, and active participation.

Just as the nobleman's journey to obtain kingship mirrors Jesus' mission with a delayed fulfillment, we, like the nobleman's servants, are entrusted with "gold coins"—gifts, opportunities, and responsibilities meant to be nurtured and expanded, even when outcomes are uncertain. Each servant's response is revealing: two take risks and produce returns, while one fears failure and does nothing, burying his gift instead of growing it.

The third servant's hesitation is striking. He feared the master's demands and buried his coin to avoid risk. It's easy to identify with the third servant, who let fear of inadequacy and failure hold him back. Yet Jesus challenges us to see God not as a harsh taskmaster but as a generous giver, inviting us to act with faith. The nobleman's response, rewarding those who risked faithfully and reallocating the fearful servant's coin, reflects God's abundant generosity and desire to entrust us with more when we step out in faith.

I experienced this lesson a few years ago as Program Manager for the Diaconate Office in the Diocese of Orange. I was invited to help develop the curriculum for the second year of formation, focused on Catholic Social Teaching. This meant I would also be one of the teachers. I felt a wave of fear: How could a young Latina woman without a college degree stand before a group of men, mostly Anglo and educated, and teach? Yet God provided everything I needed, helping me to invest my "coin" in ways I hadn't imagined.

Years later, I received a call from the wife of a Deacon who thanked me for being part of her husband's formation and told me he was on his way to Mexico to do justice work. Her gratitude reminded me of the impact of our faithfulness, both in our own lives and in the lives of others.

This parable challenges us to embrace the gifts we've been given, step beyond fear, and trust that even our smallest efforts will be met with God's grace and blessings as we participate wholeheartedly in building His Kingdom.



Image by □□□

For Prayer

Suscipe

*Take, Lord, and receive all my liberty,
My memory, my understanding,
And my entire will,
All I have and call my own.
You have given all to me.
To you, Lord, I return it.
Everything is yours; do with it what you will.
Give me only your love and your grace,
That is enough for me.*

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