Homily for Nov.15, 2026
Readings: Proverbs 10:1-3 -9-20 - 30-34 Thess.5: 1-6.
Gospel - Matt. 25: 14-30

In the poem, "What to Remember When Waking", the poet David Whyte writes:

> *To be human is to become visible, while carrying*
> *what is hidden as a gift to others.*

Jesus knew that in the core of each person is a hidden gift of who we are. In this Gospel story of the Talents, Jesus is calling for that important gift to grow and at some point to be visible to people around us. In the dialogue with the three workers, Jesus was pointing out that the ultimate success of a person's talent occurs when they have integrated it into their life and then have passed this talent's usefulness to others. In other words: don't bury it!

In that sharing of our talents we make our lives honest and we can more easily recognize what another person may need from us – whether it be I talent or 2 or 5!

I believe Jesus was challenging the workers (and us?) to a deeper meaning: What is the gift of yourself that you can give? How much of your gift are you holding on to, or are burying? What are you afraid of? "For to all those who have, more will be given… but for those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away."

David Whyte's poem continues:

> *You are not a troubled guest on this earth, you are not an accident,*
> *you were invited from another and greater night than the one from*
> *which you came.*

And in today's 2nd reading, Paul asks the Thessalonians, a small group of new converts, to take courage in their following of Jesus. They were a mix of Greek, Roman and Jewish community leaders living in a wealthy Roman province called Macedonia.

It was a hostile city and when Paul heard of their hardship's he told them how Jewish teaching fit into Jesus' teaching about the word of God and the role of community. Paul tried to explain to the Thessalonians that being Christian was not just about beliefs but about a deeper relationship with God through Jesus teachings applied to their life. A much more personal transformation, a learning to love God built on their/our experiencing of being loved by others. It is a paying attention to our relationship with God. It is loving what God loves.

They Thessalonians were trying to understand how Jesus reveals who He really is and why He has come by what he did: the deaf hear, the blind see, the lame walk and the dead rise! Even at a banquet the wine never runs out!
Jesus point? He comes to transform their lives forever. Their talents, our talents, are not to be hidden. They are to be shared, they are given to build community.

David Whyte's poem continues:

What you can plan is too small for you to live.
What you can live wholeheartedly will make plans enough
For the vitality hidden in your sleep.

The text that follows the Gospel of the talents in Scripture is a direct application… for we read there the great vision Jesus had for all the nations: here is how to use your talents: I was hungry and you gave me food
I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink
I was a stranger and you welcomed me
I was naked and you gave me clothes
I was sick and you took care of me
I was in prison and you visited me
"And Jesus answers: Just as you did it to the least of those you did it to me"

It is this vision of God's judgement, which Jesus will teach through his preaching, that is the basis of all the stories and parables in Matthew's Gospel. The third servant in the parable of the talents would be among those who would ask in astonishment…when did we see you hungry? God must tell me!
Scripture scholars tell us that this text was almost like a stage play. Jesus followers would learn: these 4 ideas:
Leave it up to God to be the judge of good and evil -

The weakest should have the same opportunities as the strongest.
True democracy has to be lived out by the people of every village.
You are no longer alone. You are no longer without hope.

David Whyte ends his poem:

Now looking through the slanting light of the morning window
toward the mountain presence of everything that can be -
What urgency calls you to love?
What shape waits in the seed of you to grow and spread its branches
against a future sky?

Is it waiting in the fertile sea?
In the trees beyond the house?
In the life you imagine for yourself?
In the open and lovely white page on the writing desk?

And for Loretto: What do you carry that is hidden as a gift for others? Who are you now, at this stage of your life? What shape waits in the seed of you? How are you part of today's Eucharist?

Donna Day
Nov. 15, 2026