

NOVEMBER 16, 2014



THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



PROVERBS 31:10–13, 19–20, 30–31

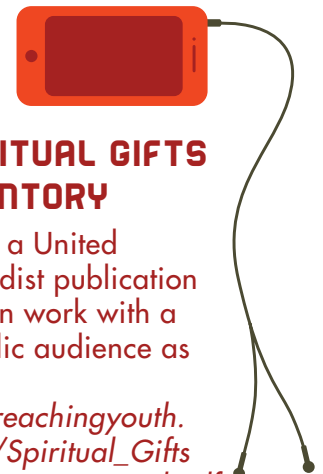
PSALM 128:1–2, 3, 4–5

1 THESSALONIANS 5:1–6

MATTHEW 25:14–30 OR 25:14–15, 19–21

REFLECTION

The wonder woman in our Proverbs reading today has talent and does something with it. Look up the passage in the Bible (Proverbs is after the Psalms and before Ecclesiastes) and you'll see in the omitted parts (see verses 14–18, 20–29) that she is also savvy in business, physically strong, and stays up late. She's a good manager and makes money selling the things she has made. She's also talented, wise, confident, hopeful, a hard worker, and is respected and praised by her husband and children. This woman stands in contrast to the fearful servant in today's Gospel who buries what he's given out of fear. The meaning of fear in the Gospel is different than the "fear the Lord" described in the Psalm 128:1. Wonder and awe, another way that fear of the Lord is described, is one of the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit we receive in the Sacrament of Confirmation. It's a gift that moves us toward wisdom. The headline of today's readings is *be ready!* Don't wait around to use your gifts and talents. Now is the time.



SPIRITUAL GIFTS INVENTORY

This is a United Methodist publication but can work with a Catholic audience as well.

www.reachingyouth.org/f/Spiritual_Gifts_Inventory_Revised.pdf

ACTION

What talent do you have? Put it to use for the good of someone else. Choose one thing you're good at (see the reflection questions) and take action! Can you sing? How about getting a few friends together to sing at the nursing home? Are you good at sports? Teach a younger kid some of what you know. Can you bake? Surprise the teachers at your school with an unexpected treat.

JOURNALING QUESTIONS

● We're all pretty skilled at naming the things we wish were different about ourselves. Instead, make a list of all the things you're good at. Write down at least ten things. Then go back and try to think of some ways you can use those talents to serve, help, or grow instead of burying them out of fear.