

# Don't Be Lazy

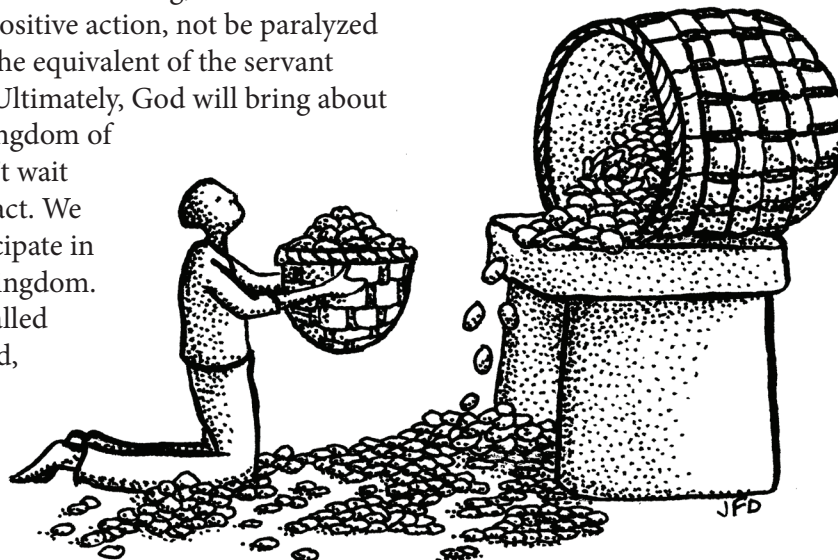
*This Week's Readings at Mass*

- Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31 • A Worthy Wife
- 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6 • Stay alert
- Matthew 25:14-30 • The parable of the talents

We are in the middle of a series of Gospel parables that Jesus tells about staying alert and being prepared for his second coming. We believe that appearance will mark the end of this world as we know it. Jesus cautions his listeners several times to remain at-the-ready, even if their “master” is gone for an extended period like the man in this parable or the groom in last week’s parable.

When this Gospel was written, about 50 years after Jesus’ death, some of the early Christians had grown complacent and even lazy because Jesus hadn’t yet returned. Paul alludes to this in his letter to the Thessalonians. There is a certain percentage of people who live mindlessly, enjoying a false sense of peace and security, unaware that things can change instantly—perhaps like some of us before COVID-19 hit. In a later letter to the same community, Paul calls out those “living in idleness, mere busybodies, not doing any work” (2 Thess. 3:11). Some people figured they didn’t need to bother working because Jesus was returning soon. So Paul instilled a new rule: “Anyone unwilling to work should not eat” (2 Thess. 3:10).

The parable of the talents shares the same motif: while awaiting Jesus’ second coming, we should work responsibly and for positive action, not be paralyzed by fear or laziness—the equivalent of the servant who hid the money. Ultimately, God will bring about the fullness of the Kingdom of God, but we shouldn’t wait passively for God to act. We are all called to participate in the building of the Kingdom. As disciples we are called to action in this world, during a global pandemic or not, not simply accepting suffering while awaiting



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“Since you were faithful in small matters, I will give you great responsibilities.”

**Sheepish Question:**  
How can I take more responsibility for Jesus’ call to grow his kingdom?

a reward in heaven. Jesus calls us to put our talents (gifts, skills, money, and otherwise) to work, alleviating pain, building healthy communities, and fighting injustice—while we stay hopeful and alert for his coming.

## Questions of the Week

1 Do you ever get weary and feel like giving up in working to build the Kingdom when God doesn’t seem to be “showing up”? In what way?

2 Who do you know, or know of, who tirelessly works for the building of the Kingdom and stays alert and awake for God’s coming?

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