

Risk It for the Biscuit!

Prov. 31: 10-13, 16-18; 1 Thess. 5: 1-6; Matt. 25: 14-30

Risk. This is a word that makes people nervous. Some are nervous with excitement and others are nervous with dread. Some people love to take risks and others try to avoid risk at all costs.

In the Gospel for this Sunday, Jesus tells His disciples a parable of a master who, after entrusting his property to his slaves, leaves his home on a long journey. The slave who received five talents made five more talents and showed his master the ten talents when he returned. Likewise, a second slave who received two talents made two more talents and showed the master the four talents.

But a third slave, who was given one talent, buried it in the ground. When the master returned from his journey, the slave was only able to show him the one talent that he was given. He had not multiplied what had been entrusted to him.

The master praised the first two slaves but was critical of the third slave and had him thrown out of his house. The first two slaves were willing to take risks. They used the property given to them and increased their value. However, the third slave avoided any risk and so was not able to show the master any increase.

Of course, the master represents Jesus and the slaves are us who wish to go to heaven. Jesus makes it clear that, when He ascended to heaven, He left us with gifts that He expected us to use to serve others in this world thereby increasing the number of His followers. However, to do this, we would have to be willing to take risks. We might have to endure ridicule or persecution.

The third slave was not willing to leave his comfort zone. In fact, he did nothing. If he had done the minimum (investing the talent with the bankers), he would have made a small increase, but he did not even have that to show his master.

Being a follower of Christ is never easy. We must be prepared to place our trust in Him and to take risks in His service. We can't be satisfied to play it safe.

When the disciples were sailing on the Sea of Galilee, Christ called Peter out of the boat to walk across the water to Him (Matt. 14: 29). When Peter placed his trust in Jesus and jumped out of the boat, he was able to walk on the water. When the disciples had been fishing all night with no success, Jesus told them to put out into the deep water and cast their nets again (Luke 5: 4). When they followed Jesus' instruction with faith, they had a big catch.

Trust in Jesus and go out to serve. Isn't the prize worth the risk?