

There was a drunk guy is walking down the street. He sees this nun dressed in her very traditional long habit and veil. The man runs up to her and knocks her over, then says, "You don't feel so tough now, do you, Batman!?"

The point is: how you see someone will largely determine how you deal with that someone.

In this week's gospel, Jesus tells a parable about a master giving talents to three of his slaves. In this parable our Lord teaches us something very important: the way we see God is how we approach Him.

A "talent" refers to a large sum of money. In Jesus' parable the master gives one slave five talents, two talents to another, and one talent to the third. The first two slaves went off right away and made double for their master, while the third slave buried the talent, and simply gave the money back to the master.

The third slave's action (or lack of action) was the result on how he viewed his master. He saw his master as a "harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed." He was afraid of his master.

His master wasn't happy with him, and because he did not use his talent, it was taken away. And, the third slave was punished for not using it.

Let's look at the differences between the two servants who served their master correctly and the one who did not:

The first two were determined to make a profit; the third was determined to not take a loss.

The first two were willing to work hard and take risks; the third took no risks.

The first two received the gift; the third refused the gift.

The first two wanted to advance the master's domain; the third had no interest in what mattered to the master.

The first two viewed the money as an opportunity; the third saw it as a problem.

The first two allowed the master's gift to change their lives; the third refused to let the gift touch his life.

The first two saw a blessing; the third guy saw a burden.

And, in the final analysis, the first two knew the master; the third slave had no clue.

How do you see God? Is he a harsh judge? Is he a task-master? Are you afraid of Him? Well, the way you see God is going to affect the way you approach Him.

Jesus reveals his Father to us as *our* Father—a loving Father who wants only the best for His children.

The Father has given each of us "talents" as well. We are to develop them and use them for the God our Father's glory. We will gladly do so if we see God rightly.

