

Homily for the 33rd Sunday in OT A (November 13, 2011)

Sacred Heart

Salisbury, NC

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I will trust in the Lord because the Lord has first trusted in me.

The parable that the Lord Jesus presents today in the gospel is very familiar to us. A man was going on a journey and before he left the man entrusted his wealth to three of his servants. Each of the servants was entrusted with a share in the wealth of the master, a share that was in accord with each of their abilities. While the master was away on his long journey, two of the servants used the wealth entrusted to them and doubled it. One of the servants, however, buried the valuable coin. When the master returned he wanted to settle the accounts with the servants. The two servants who had wisely used the wealth entrusted to them were commended, then entrusted with greater responsibilities, and most importantly welcomed into the joy of the master. On the other hand, the servant who buried the coin was chastised, had the wealth that was entrusted to him taken from him and was cast out of the household of the master.

This parable is not about the proper use of wealth. It is not really even about the proper use of gifts. The parable that the Lord Jesus presents to us today is principally about trust. The master who was going on a journey placed a great deal of trust, as well as a great deal of money, in the hands of his servants. Each of them received an amount that was specific to them and their abilities. The master knew his servants very well. He trusted them. Two of the servants accepted the trust and confidence of the master. The servants trusted in the master because the master had first trusted in them.

We, my brothers and sisters, have been entrusted with the great wealth of the kingdom of heaven. From all eternity, our loving Father through his Son and in the power of the Holy Spirit has chosen to shower his blessings upon us. The Lord has chosen to trust us with many gifts. He made us stewards of his goodness and grace, calling us to care for all that he has given to us until his return in glory. The Lord has trusted us with his many gifts. Do we, my brothers and sisters in Christ, trust in him for our use of these gifts? Do we trust that the Almighty God will bring to fulfillment the good work he has begun in us? There is a basic

and ancient principle in the spiritual life that says that wherever God calls us to a mission God equips us with his grace for that mission. God has entrusted all of us with the gift of life. To us who are gathered here, God has entrusted the gift of faith. We were claimed in the waters of baptism and strengthened with the grace of the sacraments so that we could live and love as good stewards of the mysteries of the Kingdom of God. For many of you here, the Lord has entrusted to you another person in the sacrament of marriage so that in your mutual self giving you might image the love that Christ our Savior has the Church his bride. For you who have been called by nature and grace to be parents, you have been entrusted with the present and the future in your children. In every vocation, we are entrusted with the precious wealth of the kingdom of God. The Lord has trusted us. May we, day by day and year by year, accept his trust and place our trust in him.

The two servants who wisely used the wealth entrusted to them were not only commended, but they were also invited to share the joy of the master. That is our hope as well. To share in the joy of the master meant that life of the servant had been forever changed. Joining in the joy of

the master, the servant became part of the family and an heir of the riches of the kingdom.

As we celebrate this Eucharist today, let us remember that the Lord has trusted in each of us. Let us seek to be good stewards of the gifts of God that have been entrusted to our care. And gathered together to share in the joy of the master, may we profess with our hearts and with our lives: I will trust in the Lord because the Lord has first trusted in me.