



build. plant. grow.
the word this week



ordinary
time



lectionary
reading

Cycle A

Twenty-Fifth Sunday In Ordinary Time

Lectionary # 133

Reading I: Isaiah 55: 6-9

Today's first reading is intimately connected to the Gospel parable for this Sunday. Both readings emphasize how vastly different God's ways are from our own. Isaiah's message declares that God is not only willing but always ready to seek out and heal the sinner. One only has to heed God's urgent loving call. The **generosity** of God is unbounded and this **generosity** is yet another example of unconditional love at its perfection.

Reading 2: Philippians 1: 20c-24, 27a

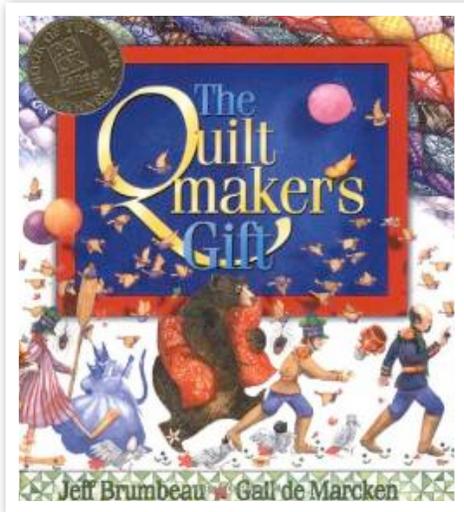
This letter to the Philippians presents Saint Paul in prison and facing a sentence of death. Despite this, the letter is often referred to as the "joyful letter." Saint Paul sees that in either life or death he is absolutely linked to Christ Jesus and that relationship is the most important thing in his life. Saint Paul finds only one dilemma. He is torn, for while he prefers to "depart" this life and be with Christ, he also desires to go on living for the sake of those he has brought to Christ. In both joy and sacrifice Saint Paul exemplifies the **generosity** of Christ, a **generosity** that should be an essential part of all who follow Christ.

Gospel: Matthew 20: 1-16a

This parable of the **generous** landowner is unique to Saint Matthew's gospel. Jesus uses this parable to express the abundant **generosity** that is characteristic of the economy of God's love. The term "fair" has a wholly different meaning here, determined not by our small and petty notions, but by God's inscrutable wisdom. We stand in awe of God's graciousness and **generosity** for everyone can get a full day's pay because payment is not earned but awarded in the Kingdom, and God can be as generous as he wants.



children's
story



The Quilt Maker's Gift

Written by Jeff Brumbeau

Illustrated by Gail de Marcken

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character
education
activity

Generosity is yet another way of loving our brothers and sisters. By being generous we actually are sharing with others the gifts that belong to God and are on loan to us.

The Quilt Maker's Gift

A charitable seamstress makes beautiful quilts and the recipients of these quilts are the needy and the poor. When a greedy king hears of these exquisite creations, he demands that the seamstress make one for him. The seamstress refuses to sell the king one, but says that she will give him one if he gives away all of his possessions. As the story progresses the king travels the world to give away all of his treasures. When he returns to the village he is a happier man yet clothed in rags. The seamstress then presents him with a beautiful quilt. It is a fine book for teaching the value of **generosity**.

Activity

Step One: Identify the charitable organizations that the school has assisted in the past, such as Saint Vincent de Paul Society, Goodwill, Salvation Army or the local parish Outreach Organization.

Step Two: Research the greatest needs of those organizations and invite the students to bring in an item to donate each day for a week.

Step Three: Have the students decorate a large box or canister that can hold the items collected for the various agencies. The students could use squares of paper that they designed to construct a paper quilt that covers the box or canister. A colored copy of the cover of *The Quilt Maker's Gift* could be centered on the container to remind the students of the story and serve as a reminder of the importance of being **generous**.

A generous spirit is one that is most closely aligned with the Holy Spirit that dwells within us.



case study

**Look.
Feel.
Know.
Act.**

What could you do today?

Discuss the following idea and project with your family. If there are some homeless individuals that you encounter at stop signs or stop lights at various intersections that are part of your travels, you might want to store small bags that contain needed items such as bottled water, toothbrushes and toothpaste, gum and mints in your car. Be creative with the contents of the bag.

At your birthday party you might suggest that any gift that you receive be given to a charitable organization that assists those who are in need. When sending out birthday party invitations you might include the type of things that are needed by the various charitable organizations.

Look Feel Know Act

All we need do is look around us and recognize the many gifts and blessings God has bestowed upon us. Looking at all of these blessings and gifts compels us to be people of gratitude for the overflowing **generosity** of our God. Realizing this **generosity** we are then called by the Spirit that dwells within us to respond by being **generous** to others around us. In many ways the **generosity** of God can cause a grand domino effect whereby one good leads to another and to another. When we come to know this, it can be the basis for how we live in the world, thus making the world, even a small portion of it a better place. Wanting and yearning to do good simply because it is good is what is known as altruism, which is the most sublime form of moral development. Altruism is something that all followers of Christ should strive for in their lives.

In *The Quilt Maker's Gift*, we encounter a story in which something extremely valuable cannot be purchased with money. The story enlightens us and adds new dimension to this valuable fact that is revealed to us many times over in the Sacred Scriptures. A **generous** nature can indeed be contagious and each person can cause this wonderful movement from one good and gracious act to another.



closing
tool

Pray that you will always be a person of gratitude for the gifts God has given to you and that your gratitude will show itself through ever present generosity in your life. Amen.



**Santa Clara
University**

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