

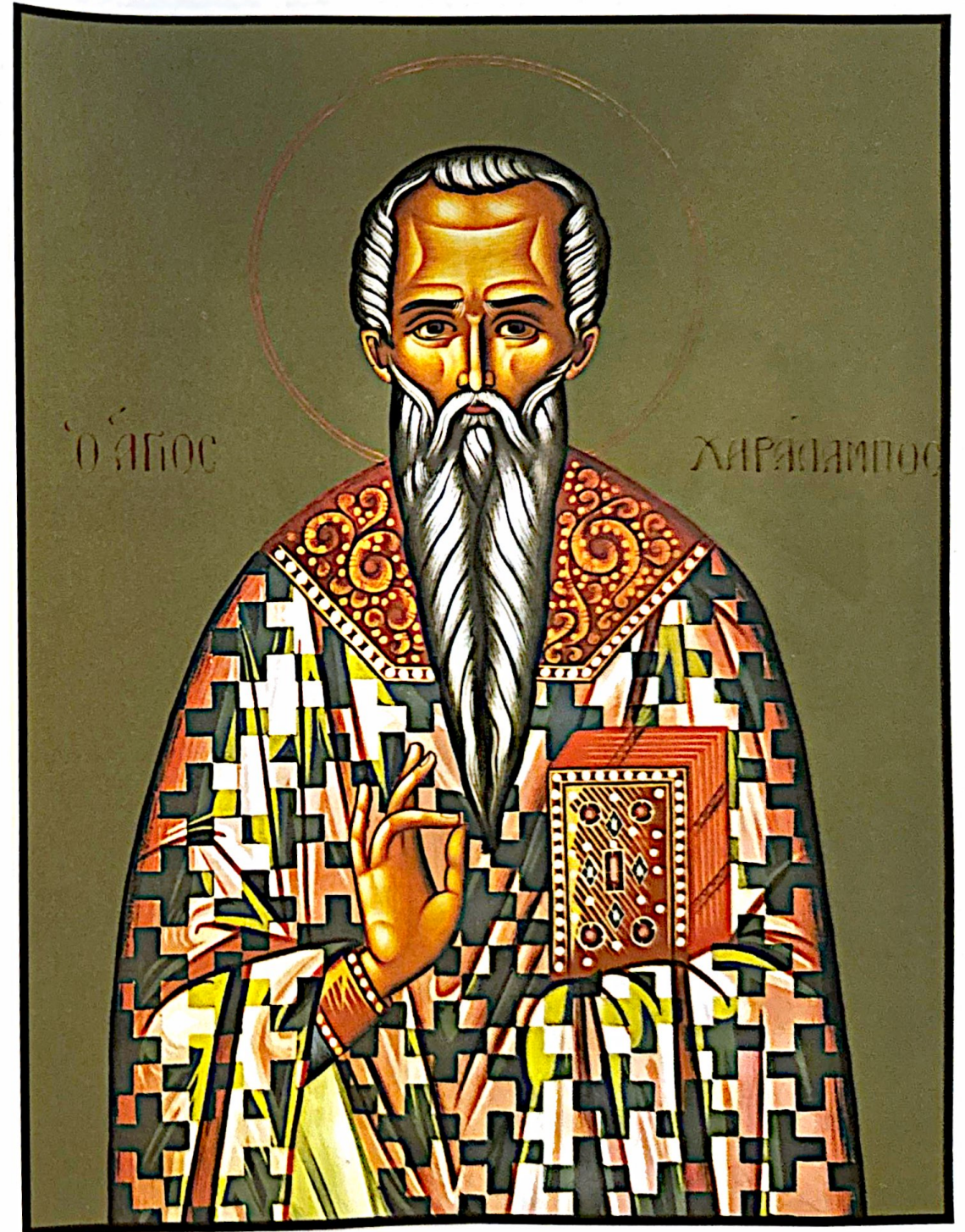
## MARTYRDOM KNOWS NO AGE LIMIT

**T**hroughout the pages of Church History, we often hear stirring tales of men and women who willingly submitted to torture and martyrdom at the prime of their lives. The saint depicted on the cover of today's Church Bulletin falls into a different category: he gave his life for Christ at the advanced age of 113!

ST. HARALAMBOS was born in the town of Magnesia in Asia Minor in the 2nd century. He served his home town as a priest and later as a bishop. He was much loved by his flock as he worked tirelessly to bring Christ's message to them. In doing so, Haralambos incurred the wrath of the provincial governor, who launched an aggressive campaign of persecution against the Christians of Magnesia. Haralambos did not hide from the attackers. Instead, he defiantly continued to preach the Gospel openly, bringing about his arrest and imprisonment.

Haralambos certainly faced great physical torment. First, he was tied to a post in a public square and slashed repeatedly with knives. When he refused to renounce Christ, Haralambos was dragged through the streets by his beard. He was systematically tortured for several months. Still, the faith of Haralambos remained strong. Ultimately, the Emperor Septimus Severus ordered him to be brought to Antioch, where he was to be beheaded. Just as the executioners were about to carry out this sentence, the saintly bishop died, thus depriving his enemies the satisfaction of taking his life.

The Orthodox Weekly Bulletin . . . . . Vestal, Cliffwood, New Jersey . . . . . Litho in U.S.A.





**ST.DEMETRIOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH**  
**NORTH WILDWOOD, NEW JERSEY**  
**FEBRUARY 11<sup>TH</sup>, 2024**

**16<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF ST MATTHEW**

**WELCOME ALL VISITORS:**

On behalf of the Parish Council, Fr. Michael, and the entire family of St. Demetrios, we would like to welcome our Visitors for joining us today in our sacred worship service. If you need any assistance please notify any of the Parish Council members. God Bless our Visitors and may your stay here be pleasant and memorable. Please don't hesitate to come again.

**LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS "INSTALLATION PHILOPTOCHOS BOARD MEMBERS"**

This service will take place after the Divine Liturgy today. The entire family of St. Demetrios would like to congratulate the Officers and Members of the Ladies Philoptochos Society. We take this opportunity to wish them a very successful New Year as they look forward to their many challenges. GOD BLESS OUR PHILOPTOCHOS

**LADIES.**

**GOD PARENT SUNDAY:**

Attention all Parishioners: Fr. Michael has designated Sunday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024 as God Parent Sunday. Make sure that everyone contacts their Godparent or Godparents and bring your Godparents to church on that day. Fr. Michael will conduct a special service for this event.

**SPONSORING COFFEE HOUR:**

If anyone is interested in sponsoring the coffee hour please contact the Church Philoptochos. Please contact Dina Bilios (609) 675-8786 or Bessie Glouros at (609) 602-8545.

**STEWARDSHIP NEWS:**

All our local and seasonal members and visitors are invited to register and enroll in our parish for the 2024 membership and join in weekly worship and to support of our parish "Stewardship Program" and ministries. The annual minimum enrollment offering is \$750 per family, and \$500 for single people. Please complete the parish membership registry forms that are available in the Narthex. Families that are in arrears are invited to reinstate their membership and participation in our parish life and ministries.

**GREEK SCHOOL:** Classes are every Friday night 4:30 pm – 7:30 pm.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL:** On behalf of the Parish Council, Fr. Michael, and the entire family of St. Demetrios, we would like to notify parents that Sunday school has already started! We would like all parents to have their children at the church by 9:45 am. Every Sunday after the Gospel reading the children will go to their Sunday school classroom and then come back to receive their Holy Communion.

**OUR NEW ST DEMETRIOS WEBSITE:** Attention everyone: We have a new website! Please add [www.stdemetriosnewjersey.com](http://www.stdemetriosnewjersey.com) as a favorite on your devices. Be advised that the new website is now LIVE. Please review and enjoy. Donations are able to process on our website via the DONATIONS tab where you will find the VANCO QR Code (shown below).

**LITURGICAL WINTER SCHEDULE:**

*(For Sunday Hours -9:00 am Orthos and 10:00 am Divine Liturgy)*

*(For Weekday Services -9:00 am Orthos and 9:30 am Divine Liturgy)*

*(For Vesper Services-6:00 pm)*

**LITURGICAL PROGRAM FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY:**

February 11<sup>th</sup>: 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday of St. Matthew/The Talents Orthros-9:00 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am.

February 18<sup>th</sup>: 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday of St. Matthew/The Cannonite Woman Orthros-9:00 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am.

February 25<sup>th</sup>: 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday of St. Luke/Triodion Begins-Orthros-9:00 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

**SIGHTS & SOUNDS:**

2024 Youth Arts Festival-Saturday, April 13, 2024, St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church 229 Powell Lane, Upper Darby, PA 19082

**ATTENTION ALL PARISHIONERS: THE ST. DEMETRIOS COMMUNITY IS SPONSORING THE APOKRIATIKO GLENDI (GREEK MARDI GRAW) ON SATURDAY, MARCH 9<sup>TH</sup>, 2024.**

**WE ARE HONORING MR. JOHN LYNCH A TRUE FRIEND OF THE GREEK AMERICAN COMMUNITY.WE HAVE ALSO INVITED MANY OTHER DIGNITARIES THAT WILL BE WITH US THAT EVENING. THERE WILL BE A (RAFFLE) A (SILENT AUCTION) (LIVE ENTERTAINMENT) AND A (FULL COURSE GREEK DINNER) ALONG WITH A VARIETY OF GREEK DESSERTS.**

**THE PRICES FOR THIS EVENT ARE: ADULTS \$65.00 and CHILDREN \$25.00. This event will take place at the St. Demetrios Community Center. Time: 6:00 pm. Tickets are going fast so please contact any of the Parish Council Members to secure your reservation. There will also be a 50/50 Raffle.**

**WE HAVE ALSO ADDED AN ADDITIONAL (ALBUM) FOR THIS MEMORABLE EVENT. If you would like to register for this Album please contact any of the Parish Council Members. Applications for this album are located in the Narthex area as you come into the church. Please tell your friends and relatives to join us during this wonderful and exciting evening. This is one of our major fundraisers and we need all the support that we can get from our Parishioners and friends. SEE YOU ALL THERE AT THE APOKRIATIKO GLENDI. OPA.**



# The Children's Word

"Let the little children come to me, and do not forbid them, for to such is the Kingdom of Heaven." Mark 10:14

Sunday, February 11, 2024

Volume 12, Issue 6

A Ministry of the  
Orthodox Christian Network



## Don't hide your gifts!

What would you do if somebody gave you a ton of money, and he told you to use it in a good way? Would you be afraid to spend it? Would you hide it in your room, where it would be safe? What would you do with it?

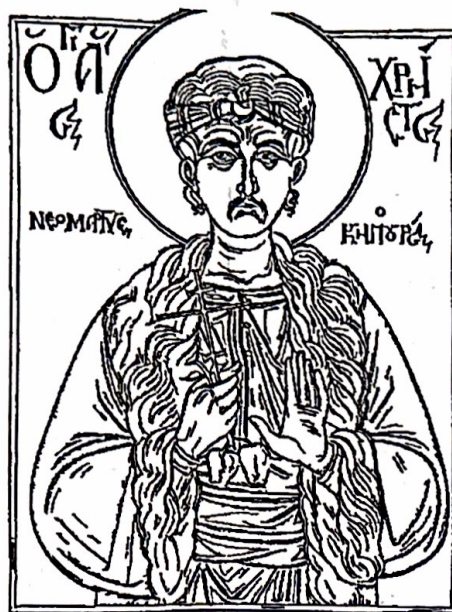
In today's Gospel reading, we hear a parable about a man who gave some money to three people, and he trusted them to use it in the right way. Two of them did just that, but one of them was afraid to use the money. He hid that money in the ground, until the man came back for it!



A parable is a story that tells us a lesson. What's the lesson we can learn? God has given us all special gifts too. He has given us our Orthodox Christian faith. He wants us to grow close to Him and to know Him better. He even wants us to be with Him in heaven, and He tells us how to get there. We have teachers and parents who help us grow in our faith, and we have a country that protects our rights to be Christians. We have a lot of gifts—It's like we have been given a ton of money!

Let's not be afraid to spend that money! In other words, let's share our faith with others so that it can grow. Let's help other people who need our help, so that they can know the love of Christ too. Let's not hide our gifts, like the man in the parable hid his gifts!

Saint Christos, pray for us!



## SAINT CHRISTOS THE FAITHFUL GARDENER

Have you ever noticed that a saint can have almost any kind of job? A saint can be a faithful priest or bishop. A saint can be a faithful cook, or a faithful teacher, or a faithful mother, or a faithful carpenter, or a faithful king or queen. A saint can be a faithful person with no job at all!



Tomorrow we celebrate a saint who was a faithful gardener. Saint Christos lived in Albania, but he later moved to the city of Constantinople for a job. He tended the gardens of the sultan, who was the ruler of the land. In those days, Constantinople was part of the Ottoman empire, so the rulers were not Christian, but Muslim. Christos knew that, of course, but he also knew he would always be a Christian. He would always love and serve Christ.

Once, Christos was selling fruit that he had grown in the garden. A man came to buy some of the fruit, but he didn't like the price. He was angry, so he lied about Christos. He told the authorities that Christos had promised to become a Muslim, and to deny Christ.

Christos was sent to prison, and a monk came to give him food. But Christos said, "Why should I eat? I do not expect to live, so I may as well die hungry and thirsting for Christ." Later, the Turkish leaders did kill Christos, but the faithful gardener never gave up his faith. He loved Christ to the end of his life, and he still loves Him in heaven today!

We celebrate Saint Christos on Monday, February 12th (OC: Feb. 25th).

## WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

Christos  
Faithful  
Gardener  
Martyr  
Master  
Parable  
Servants  
Sharing  
Talents

R Y A L A A G H E T X K V Y I  
E Y P W A S D N S X M B U L D  
D A T E P D G A C I D C R F R  
F U K R G N E T A L E N T S M  
S U Y F A L A S K U Q L C Z F  
M H H W B M E C E F L D Q U R  
X H A A Y R H L M H M P W J X  
U O R R V R C A C T S Y D V K  
Y A K A I U V Z I I H J X I L  
P D N S P N O D B A C M B M X  
C T T W L O G Z J F O P G A T  
S O D X K P Y R G G R J A S I  
S P T V P J L Z S W O H C T K  
B A Z B G U O S F U X A R E R  
L M V A S R E N E D R A G R X

## WHAT'S IN THE ICON?

We have a few gardener saints in our Church!

Here are Saint Tryphon, Saint Phocas the Gardener, and Saint Christos.





# Απολυτικιον Αναστάσιμον.

Ἦχος γ'.

Εὐφρανέσθω τὰ οὐράνια, ἀγαλλιásthω τὰ ἐπίγεια, ὅτι ἐποίησε κράτος ἐν βραχίονι αὐτοῦ, ὁ Κύριος ἐπάτησε τῷ θανάτῳ τὸν θάνατον· πρωτότοκος τῶν νεκρῶν ἐγένετο· ἐκ κοιλίας ἕδου ἐρρύσατο ἡμᾶς, καὶ παρέσχε τῷ κόσμῳ τὸ μέγα ἔλεος.

Τοῦ Ἱερομάρτυρος.

Ἦχος δ'.

Καὶ τρόπων μέτοχος, καὶ θρόνων διάδοχος, τῶν Ἀποστόλων γενόμενος, τὴν πράξιν εὗρες Θεόπνευστε, εἰς θεωρίας ἐπίβασιν· διὰ τοῦτο τὸν λόγον τῆς ἀληθείας ὀρθοτομῶν, καὶ τῇ πίστει ἐντήλησας μέχρις αἵματος, Ἱερομάρτυς Βλάσιε, πρέσβευε Χριστῷ τῷ Θεῷ, σωθῆναι τὰς ψυχὰς ἡμῶν.

Κοντάκιον. Ἦχος β'.

Προστασία τῶν Χριστιανῶν ἀκαταίσχυντε, μεσιτεία, πρὸς τὸν Ποιητὴν ἀμετάθετε, μὴ παρίδης, ἁμαρτωλῶν δεήσεων φωνάς, ἀλλὰ πρόφθασον, ὡς ἀγαθὴ, εἰς τὴν βοήθειαν ἡμῶν, τῶν πιστῶς κραυγαζόντων σοι· Τάχυνον εἰς πρεσβειάν, καὶ σπεύσον εἰς ἱκεσίαν, ἢ προστατεύουσα ἀεὶ, Θεοτόκε, τῶν τιμῶντων σε.

**Ο ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΟΣ: Κορινθίους Β' - 6:1-10**

Ἀδελφοί, συνεργοὺντες παρακαλοῦμεν, μὴ εἰς ἄκενον τὴν χάριν τοῦ Θεοῦ δεῖξασθαι ὑμᾶς. Λέγει γάρ· Καρπὸν δεκτῷ ἐπήκουσά σου καὶ ἐν ἡμέρᾳ σωτηρίας ἐβοήθησά σοι· ἰδοὺ νῦν καιρὸς εὐπροσδεκτος· ἰδοὺ νῦν ἡμέρα σωτηρίας. Μηδεμίαν ἐν μηδενὶ διδόντες προσκοπὴν, ἵνα μὴ μωμηθῇ ἡ διακονία, ἀλλ' ἐν παντὶ συνιστάντες ἑαυτοὺς ὡς Θεοῦ διάκονοι, ἐν ὑπομονῇ πολλῇ, ἐν θλίψεσιν, ἐν ἀνάγκαις, ἐν στενοχωρίαις, ἐν πλῃγαῖς, ἐν φυλάκαῖς, ἐν ἀκαταστασίαις, ἐν κόποις, ἐν ἀγρυπνίαις, ἐν

# Resurrectional Apolytikion.

Mode 3.

Let the heavens be glad. Let the earth rejoice exceedingly. For the Lord has shown strength with his arm. He trampled death by death. He became the first-born of the dead. Out of the belly of Hades, He has rescued us, and to the world He has granted the great mercy. (GOASD)

For the Hieromartyr.

Mode 4.

Becoming a partner with the Apostles in way of life and successor to their thrones, O God-inspired Saint, in the active life you found an entrance to contemplation. Hence you rightly expounded the word of truth, and you shed your blood in struggling for the faith, O Hieromartyr Blaise, Intercede with Christ our God, beseeching Him to save our souls. (SD)

Kontakion. Mode 2.

O Protection of Christians that never fails, intercession with the Creator that never fails, we sinners beg you, do not ignore the voices of our prayers. O good Lady, we implore you, quickly come unto our aid, when we cry out to you with faith. Hurry to intercession, and hasten to supplication, O Theotokos who protect now and ever those who honor you. (SD)

**THE EPISTLE: Corinthians II - 6:1-10**

Brethren, working together with him, then, we entreat you not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says, "At the acceptable time I have listened to you, and helped you on the day of salvation." Behold, now is the acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. We put no obstacle in any one's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, tumults, labors, watching,

νηστείαις, ἐν ἀγνότητι, ἐν γνώσει, ἐν μακροθυμίᾳ, ἐν χρηστότητι, ἐν Πνεύματι ἀγίῳ, ἐν ἀγάπῃ ἀνυποκρίτως, ἐν λόγῳ ἀληθείας, ἐν δυνάμει Θεοῦ· διὰ τῶν ὁπλῶν τῆς δικαιοσύνης τῶν δεξιῶν καὶ ἀριστερῶν, διὰ δόξης καὶ ἀτιμίας, διὰ δυσφημίας καὶ εὐφημίας· ὥς πλάνοι καὶ ἀληθεῖς, ὥς ἀγνωστοὶ καὶ ἐπιγινωσκόμενοι, ὥς ἀποθνήσκοντες καὶ ἰδοὺ ζῶμεν, ὥς παιδευόμενοι καὶ μὴ θανατούμενοι, ὥς λυπούμενοι ἀεὶ δὲ χαίροντες, ὥς πτωχοὶ πολλοὺς δὲ πλουτίζοντες, ὥς μηδὲν ἔχοντες καὶ πάντα κατέχοντες.

**ΕΥΑΓΓΕΛΙΟΝ: Κατὰ Ματθαῖον 25:14-30**

Ἔπεν ὁ Κύριος τὴν παραβολὴν ταύτην· ἄνθρωπος τις ἀποδὴμῶν ἐκάλεσε τοὺς ἰδίους δούλους καὶ παρέδωκεν αὐτοῖς τὰ ὑπάρχοντα αὐτοῦ, καὶ ὃ μὲν ἔδωκε πέντε τάλαντα, ὃ δὲ δύο, ὃ δὲ ἓν, ἐκάστῳ κατὰ τὴν ἰδίαν δύναμιν, καὶ ἀπεδήμησεν εὐθέως. πορευθεὶς δὲ ὁ τὰ πέντε τάλαντα λαβὼν εἰργάσατο ἐν αὐτοῖς καὶ ἐποίησεν ἄλλα πέντε τάλαντα· ὡσαύτως καὶ ὁ τὰ δύο ἐκέρδησε καὶ αὐτὸς ἄλλα δύο. ὁ δὲ τὸ ἓν λαβὼν ἀπελθὼν ὥρυξεν ἐν τῇ γῇ καὶ ἀπέκρυψε τὸ ἀργύριον τοῦ κυρίου αὐτοῦ. μετὰ δὲ χρόνον πολὺν ἔρχεται ὁ κύριος τῶν δούλων ἐκείνων καὶ συναίρει μετ' αὐτῶν λόγον. καὶ προσελθὼν ὁ τὰ πέντε τάλαντα λαβὼν προσήνεγκεν ἄλλα πέντε τάλαντα λέγων· κύριε, πέντε τάλαντά μοι παρέδωκας· ἴδε ἄλλα πέντε τάλαντα ἐκέρδησα ἐπ' αὐτοῖς. ἔφη αὐτῷ ὁ κύριος αὐτοῦ· εὖ, δοῦλε ἀγαθὲ καὶ πιστέ! ἐπὶ ὀλίγα ἤς πιστός, ἐπὶ πολλῶν σε καταστήσω· εἰσελθε εἰς τὴν χαρὰν τοῦ κυρίου σου. προσελθὼν δὲ καὶ ὁ τὰ δύο τάλαντα λαβὼν εἶπε· κύριε, δύο τάλαντά μοι παρέδωκας· ἴδε ἄλλα δύο τάλαντα ἐκέρδησα ἐπ' αὐτοῖς. ἔφη αὐτῷ ὁ κύριος αὐτοῦ· εὖ, δοῦλε ἀγαθὲ καὶ πιστέ! ἐπὶ ὀλίγα ἤς πιστός, ἐπὶ πολλῶν σε καταστήσω· εἰσελθε εἰς τὴν χαρὰν τοῦ κυρίου σου. προσελθὼν δὲ καὶ ὁ τὸ ἓν τάλαντον εἰληφὼς εἶπε· κύριε, ἔγνων σε ὅτι σκληρὸς εἰ ἄνθρωπος, θερίζων ὅπου οὐκ ἐσπείρας καὶ συνάγων ὅθεν οὐ διεσκόρπισας· καὶ φοβηθεὶς ἀπελθὼν ἔκρυψα τὸ τάλαντόν σου ἐν τῇ γῇ· ἴδε ἔχεις τὸ σόν. ἀποκριθεὶς δὲ ὁ κύριος αὐτοῦ εἶπεν αὐτῷ· πονηρὲ δοῦλε καὶ ὀκνηρέ! ᾔδεις ὅτι θερίζω ὅπου οὐκ ἐσπείρα καὶ συνάγω ὅθεν οὐ διεσκόρπισα! ἔδει οὖν σε βαλεῖν τὸ ἀργύριόν μου τοῖς τραπέζιταις, καὶ ἔλθων ἐγὼ ἐκομισάμην ἐν τῷ ἔμῳ σὺν τόκῳ. ἄρατε οὖν ἀπ' αὐτοῦ τὸ τάλαντον καὶ δότε τῷ ἔχοντι τὰ δέκα τάλαντα· τῷ γὰρ ἔχοντι παντὶ δοθήσεται καὶ περισσευθήσεται· ἀπὸ δὲ τοῦ μὴ ἔχοντος καὶ ὃ ἔχει ἀρθήσεται ἀπ' αὐτοῦ, καὶ τὸν ἄχρειον δούλον ἐκβάλετε εἰς τὸ σκότος· τὸ ἐξώτερον· ἐκεῖ ἔσται ὁ κλυθμός καὶ ὁ βρυγμός τῶν ὀδόντων. Ταῦτα λέγων ἐφώνει· ὁ ἔχων ὧτα ἀκούειν ἀκουέτω.

hunger; by purity, knowledge, forbearance, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold we live; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

**GOSPEL: Matthew 25:14-30**

The Lord said this parable: "A man going on a journey called his servants and entrusted to them his property; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them; and he made five talents more. So also, he who had the two talents made two talents more. But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master.' And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master.' He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not winnow; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sowed, and gather where I have not winnowed? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to him who has the ten talents. For to every one who has will more be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who has not, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness; there men will weep and gnash their teeth.' As he said these things he cried out: "He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"