St. Matthew
CATHOLIC COMMUNITY
COME FOLLOW ME — MT 9:9

**THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**NOVEMBER 15, 2026**

Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6 Matthew 25:14-30

If you are a sports fan, we enjoy the big comeback. The big runs in the ninth inning to win the game; the touchdown pass with seconds left in the fourth quarter of the football game to complete the comeback; the last second shot from the baseline for three points to win the basketball game. Of course, we are happy when it's our team, and crushed if it's our team that loses.

In hockey this year, we might have had the biggest comeback for the year. On November 3rd the Winnebag Jets were losing 4-0 to the Montreal Canadians going into the third period in Montreal. They had lost nine straight games. They scored 4 unanswered goals and won in overtime 5-4. Fun stuff!

To do this in sports – or life – you can't live by excuses. You can't quit on yourself.

We heard in the first reading of the worthy wife who doesn't quit. She puts in the work for her husband and family. We thank the parents who make that effort for their family every day. Can't raise a family on excuses.

Our gospel is the parable of a rich man going on a journey and entrusting three servants with the task of taking care of his property. Entrust one with five talents, another with two and the last one with one.

We know how the story goes; two return the talents with monetary return, while one buried the talent and no return is earned.

Why? Excuses.

"Master, I knew you were a demanding person, harvesting where you did not plant and gathering where you did not scatter; so out of fear I went off and buried your talent in the ground. Here it is back."

When we make excuses, it usually is because of fear. The servant knew he was "a demanding person."

One can't live well with excuses.

Fear is a powerful emotion that can make us work harder or bury what we have, so to speak.

It comes down to our image of God. If we see God as a master, we may live as a slave; a hired hand. If God is an SOB – a tyrant – we may live in fear. But if God is our savior, the one who died on the cross for us, then we live by trust. We take the talents he has given us – no matter how many – and we do our best to give the Lord a return on his investment in us.

We live as the Lord's disciple every day no excuses, even if we need a comeback at this time in our life.

Prayer: Bringing Home the Word