



THE ADVENTURE OF LIFE

In a poem called 'The Summer Day', Mary Oliver describes how she had spent a day out in the sunshine, observing nature, drinking in the wonders of creation and concludes with the challenging question

Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?

For me, that is the question posed by today's parable of the talents. Our creator God has given us the gift of life, a gift given to us in love. What do we plan to do with this gift? God has not dictated to us the details of how we should live our life. That is our free choice.

When we believe that the God who gave us life is a loving God, and use our freedom creatively, we enrich the world in some way. It is not that everything we do will work out well. We will take some risks, and have our share of failures as well, but overall a life lived wholeheartedly will be a blessing for ourselves and for others. This is much more a question of attitude than external achievements. There are people, whose circumstances are apparently very limited, who can radiate

contentment and happiness that uplifts others.

In contrast is the servant who buried the talent in the ground for safety sake. One translation of this parable puts the rebuke of the master in this way: 'That's a terrible way to live! It's criminal to live cautiously like that!' It is a terrible way to live. If we believe in a God of love, we believe that the gifts he gives us are for our enjoyment and for the benefit of others. We can see life as an adventure, as we discover by trial and error how to make the most

of our life and the opportunities that come our way. Elsewhere Jesus said that his purpose on earth was that we might have life and have it abundantly. Our task is to make choices that will help us to grow physically, mentally and spiritually.

That does not mean living the life of a compulsive action person. We need to be active but also, like Mary Oliver, we need time to sit in the sun, admire nature and take in the beauty of creation and the wonder of the creator behind it all. As we welcome the gift of this day, what is it that we plan to do with this gift? ■

– John Byrne, OSA

Reflection

What decisions have you made that helped to improve your quality of life?

Lesson

The choices we make influence how our life works out.

Prayer

Show me, Lord, your way so that I may walk in your truth.

Guide my heart to revere your name. (Ps 86)



FEED YOUR LOVE

Without food we die! Our wedding promise was to nourish each other so that we bring life to our marriage. We feed each other in all the little countless ways, but particularly in our tender lovemaking, our talking and listening, support and encouragement, particularly in times of doubt and uncertainty. In these ways our marriage will grow and shine.

– Marriage Matters

www.twoinoneflesh.org.uk



This Week (16–22 November)

- 16 M St Margaret of Scotland
- 17 T St Elizabeth of Hungary, religious
- 18 W Dedication of the Basilicas of Ss Peter & Paul
- 19 T St Mechtilde, religious
- 20 F St Edmund, martyr
- 21 S The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- 22 S JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

