

15th Nov - Parable of the Talents

The Parable of the Talents

“For it is like a man going on a journey, who summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. The one who had received five talents went off right away and put his money to work and gained five more. In the same way, the one who had two gained two more. But the one who had received one talent went out and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money in it. After a long time, the master of those slaves came and settled his accounts with them. The one who had received the five talents came and brought five more, saying, ‘Sir, you entrusted me with five talents. See, I have gained five more.’ His master answered, ‘Well done, good and faithful slave! You have been faithful in a few things. I will put you in charge of many things. Enter into the joy of your master.’ The one with the two talents also came and said, ‘Sir, you entrusted two talents to me. See, I have gained two more.’ His master answered, ‘Well done, good and faithful slave! You have been faithful with a few things. I will put you in charge of many things. Enter into the joy of your master.’ Then the one who had received the one talent came and said, ‘Sir, I knew that you were a hard man, harvesting where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed, so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. See, you have what is yours.’ But his master answered, ‘Evil and lazy slave! So you knew that I harvest where I didn’t sow and gather where I didn’t scatter? Then you should have deposited my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received my money back with interest! Therefore take the talent from him and give it to the one who has ten. For the one who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough. But the one who does not have, even what he has will be taken from him. And throw that worthless slave into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

So - I’ve dropped a bag onto Mike Botto’s doorstep. He opens it and finds a bag of talents (sweets). He gives 5 to Drew, 2 to Seth and 1 to himself.

While I “go away on a journey”, they have to look after the sweets.
We sing a song, and then “come back” to the Bottos.

Somehow Drew now has 10! And Seth has 4! But Mike still has only 1 - oh dear.

So what do you think this story is about?
Everyone’s been given something!
You have to use what you’ve been given - no good to bury it!

Lets think of some people who’ve got amazing talents -
Can you think of someone, a famous person, who’s got talent?
Could be a footballer, singer etc?
They’ve been given a gift, and they’re sharing it with the world
What would happen if they didn’t share it?
If Ed Sheeran didn’t share his music? - all those wedding couples with nothing to dance to!
If Greta Thunberg didn’t share her passion for the environment - world leaders getting away with it
What if Joe Biden had said - I’m too old?

(In the meeting people suggested Catherine Jenkins, the singer; and Marcus Rashford who has campaigned for free school meals for children).

I wonder what you think your talent is..
Lets have a moment to think about that

Ponder moment

The story mentions talents - which nowadays means a skill or something we're good at. Has anyone here got a talent for maths, or a calculator?

Because In Jesus day, a talent wasn't something we did well, it was unit of weight, and if that weight was silver coins, a talent was a unit of money.

So who's got the talent for maths? If I have 33 kg (72 pounds in old money) of silver - and a kg of silver is about £636 - £21,000

Or if a daily wage is in uk - £86 a day, How much is 6000 days wages? = £517,000 - 16 years wages.

And that's 1 talent - Someone got 5 talents - like 2.5 million pounds!

But they used it to make another £2.5 million - I don't know what the time scale is, but any business with 100% growth like that would be amazing!!

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So what we have learnt so far...

That Jesus told a story which said that

Everyone's been given something - a gift, a skill, possibly just money..

And that God wants us to use it .. not to bury it in the ground..

Ahh.. but we do bury it, don't we?

Time of saying sorry!

Go and find a toy you haven't played with, Or grown ups - a dress you haven't worn, Or a book you haven't read, Or a serving dish you haven't used, Or a garden tool you haven't used in the shed...

What have you got?

Well lets say sorry to God for not using this talent, and receive his forgiveness

Now - we can use this thing, we can pass it on, its our choice.!

And as we said - everyone's been given something, and God expects us to share it - we're all richer when we do..

Might not be money....., it might be time, or being able to care, or making a cake, or making a card to drop in on someone, or flower arranging, or being organised - or the Christmas card website!

We've all been giving something... some gift

And we all know God's love - can we pass on God's love

Or tell someone about God's love - the message of love and hope

So - Sue used her talent to lead us in the prayers

Cathryn used her talent to knit and organise the angels

Nigel and Debbie used their talents to set up the Christmas Card website

So many people using their talents for others - just like Jesus told us!