Sunday 15th November: Matthew 25:14-30 **The Parable of the Talents**



Jesus said: “At that time the Kingdom of heaven will be like this. Once there was a man who was about to go on a journey; he called his servants and put them in charge of his property. He gave to each one according to his ability: to one he gave 5,000 gold coins, to another he gave 2,000, and to another he gave 1,000. Then he left on his journey. The servant who had received 5,000 coins went at once and invested his money and earned another 5,000. In the same way the servant who had received 2,000 coins earned another 2,000. But the servant who had received 1,000 coins went off, dug a hole in the ground, and hid his master's money.

“After a long time the master of those servants came back and settled accounts with them. The servant who had received 5,000 coins came in and handed over the other 5,000. ‘You gave me 5,000 coins, sir,’ he said. ‘Look! Here are another 5,000 that I have earned.’ ‘Well done, you good and faithful servant!’ said his master. ‘You have been faithful in managing small amounts, so I will put you in charge of large amounts. Come on in and share my happiness!’

Then the servant who had been given 2,000 coins came in and said, ‘You gave me 2,000 coins, sir. Look! Here are another 2,000 that I have earned.’ ‘Well done, you good and faithful servant!’ said his master. ‘You have been faithful in managing small amounts, so I will put you in charge of large amounts. Come on in and share my happiness!’

Then the servant who had received 1,000 coins came in and said, ‘Sir, I know you are a hard man; you reap harvests where you did not sow, and you gather crops where you did not scatter seed. I was afraid, so I went off and hid your money in the ground. Look! Here is what belongs to you.’

‘You bad and lazy servant!’ his master said. ‘You knew, did you, that I reap harvests where I did not sow, and gather crops where I did not scatter seed? Well, then, you should have deposited my money in the bank, and I would have received it all back with interest when I returned. Now, take the money away from him and give it to the one who has 10,000 coins. For to every person who has something, even more will be given, and he will have more than enough; but the person who has nothing, even the little that he has will be taken away from him. As for this useless servant—throw him outside in the darkness; there he will cry and grind his teeth.’

NOTE: In some versions of the story instead of talking about gold coins, it uses the word “talents”. A talent was a word for money in Jesus’ time. This story is sometimes known as the “parable of the talents”.

Gospel reflection: What do you remember from today's reading?

The first servant used the 5,000 coins he had been given and made 5,000 more. So he gave the master back 10,000 coins all together.

The second servant used the 2,000 coins he had been given and made 2,000 more, giving the master back 4,000 coins all together.

The second servant hid his 1,000 coins in the ground. When his master came back he dug the money up and returned it to him.

Was the master pleased with servant1-Yes /No …Why?

Was the master pleased with servant2-Yes /No …Why?

Was the master pleased with servant3-Yes /No…Why?

What do you think Jesus is trying to tell us in this parable?

Jesus is telling us that it is important to use the gifts that God has given us. We are all good at different things. We all have different skills and talents. What is your talent?

Some of us are good at singing; some of us are good at sport. Some of us are good at dancing; some of us are good at drawing. Some of us are good at baking; some of us are good at building Lego. Some of us are good at speaking out when we see that something is wrong or unfair, some of us are good at helping others.

Children all around the world are using their talents to make the world a better and fairer place. By using our skills to help others in our world, we are



also serving God.

We pray together for God's help to use our talents wisely:

We pray for world leaders: that they may use their talents for the good of all people, making the world a fairer place for everyone to live. Lord, in your mercy…Hear our prayer

We pray for all children around the world: that they may all have the chance to learn new skills and use their talents to make the world a better place. Lord, in your mercy… Hear our prayer

We pray for our parish, family and friends: that we may not hide our talents away, but instead use them to help others, especially people who are poor. Lord, in your mercy… Hear our prayer

Closing prayer

Generous God, you gave us a voice. Help us shout loud for what is right and fair. You gave us ears. Help us to listen to those in need. You gave us talents. Help us share and multiply them for the good of all your people. Amen.

