

Children's liturgy – Thirty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Welcome: Today we hear that we must make the best use of the talents we have been given by God. Let's think about this now.

Opening prayer: Generous God, we give you thanks for the gifts and talents that you have given us. Help us to make the best use of them that we can and to serve you in all that we do. Amen.

Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30

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.'

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

Jesus tells another parable. This time a man is about to go abroad and so he calls his servants to him and gives them each something to look after.

He gives the first servant 5,000 gold coins. He gives the second servant 2,000 gold coins. And the final servant 1,000 gold coins. What did the servants do with the money they had been given?

The first one 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 one used the 2,000 coins he had been given and made 2,000 more, giving the master back 4,000 coins all together. The final servant hid his 1,000 coins in the ground. When his master came back he dug the money up and returned it to him.

How did the master react? Why do you think he was so angry?

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".

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.

Whatever your talent is, Jesus is saying that it is important not to hide our talents from others – to just keep them to ourselves and never let them grow. Instead, it is by going out into the world, by sharing our talents and using our skills to help others that we serve God.

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.

For example some children have been creating artwork about climate justice and caring for our world, which will be shown at an exhibition at the Houses of Parliament during some very important climate talks which are about to start.

Some children have been raising money throughout the year to support their global family.

And some children, like Jasmine in Peru, have been volunteering to make their community a better place. Jasmine has helped to clear rubbish and create a new area with a maze, a playground and a safe place to play sport for all the children in her community.

How will you use your gifts, skills or talents to serve God in the coming week?

Activity

Colour in the accompanying optional illustration and write or draw on the back how you will use your talents to serve God and make the world a better place in the coming week.

Remember to share all that you have heard and thought about at the liturgy today with your grown-ups. Try not to hide your talents away this week, but to use them to help others and serve God

Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time
Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30

