

WEEKLY SERMON

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For to all those who have, more will be given

Matthew 25 v29

“It’s not fair! Why did you give him five sweets when I only got a measly one?”

Those words – or something similar – may be what comes to mind when we first read the Parable of the Talents.

In the parable, the master gives five talents (a form of currency) to one of his servants, two to another and just one to the third before going off on a long journey.

On the surface, it doesn’t seem fair; indeed, it’s almost verging on discrimination against that poor third servant!

But of course, it isn’t. The clue is there, right in the opening sentence: the talents were distributed ‘to each according to his ability’.

Right up-front, Jesus is reminding us that we each have different levels of ability; different skills; different things we are good at; different ‘talents’ to use the word in a different way.

We also need to remember that, back then, a talent of silver was an enormous amount of money: about 15 years’ wages for the average person!

So, even the servant given a single talent was enormously wealthy. If they had so chosen, they could have done so much good with it.

But there’s the crux of the issue: if they had so chosen. It’s not what and how many talents we have that’s important; it’s what we do with them that matters.

If we just sit on them, don’t use them, they are wasted. They will, in time, quite literally waste away.

Whenever we learn a new skill – whether it’s playing a musical instrument or speaking a foreign language – it will wither away unless we practise regularly and use our new skill at every opportunity.

God has entrusted each of us with a particular and unique set of skills.

Yours may be as the greatest orator your church has ever known or it may be making a pretty mean cup of tea on a Sunday morning or mowing the grass in the churchyard.

It doesn’t really matter. They are all talents that can and should be used in the service of God, each as important as the other.

And when you use them as God intended, not only will you repay the trust he has shown in you, but you will ‘enter into the joy of your master’. Who wouldn’t want to do that?

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