

Parable of the Talents

Notes: References to pictures either in **red like this**, or in **yellow like this**, are cues for you to change picture. I hope that makes sense!! It probably will when you look at the pictures themselves!

01-We all have gifts.jpg

We all have gifts from God

This story that Jesus told is called a “Parable”. A Parable is a story that helps us understand a bit more about God, and how God wants us to live!

Matthew 25:14-30

A man called **Norman** the boss decided to go on a long holiday, so Norman called his servants and asked them to take care of his house, his stuff and his money.

Norman the boss trusted his servants and thought that they would take care of his special and valuable things.

Norman decided to give one servant, called **Daniel**, **five talents** of money (lets say that it's about five million pounds!!).

To another servant called **William**, Norman gave **two talents** (or two million pounds). To the last servant called **Jack**, Norman the boss gave **one talent**, (or 1 million pounds).

Norman the boss left on his trip and the servants each did something with the money that they received.

Daniel had five talents. Daniel went away and used his money and **got five more!**

William had two talents. William also used his money wisely and **earned two more talents.**

Jack had one talent. Jack took **his talent** and buried it in the ground to keep the money safe. Jack didn't even **try** to do something with it. Perhaps Jack was lazy!

After a nice long holiday, **Norman** the boss came back and wanted to know what his servants had done with his money.

Daniel with the five talents said, "You trusted me with five talents and I made **five more!**"

Norman the boss smiled and replied, "Great job, good and faithful servant! I can trust you with a few things, so I will put you in charge of lots of things. Come and celebrate with me!"

William with the two talents came and said, "You trusted me with two talents and I made two more!"

Norman the boss smiled and replied, "Great job, good and faithful servant! I can trust you with a few things so I will put you in charge of lots of things. Come and celebrate with me!"

But ... **Jack**, who received the one talent came and told Norman, "Look Boss, I know you work hard for your money, so I was afraid to lose any of it. I decided to bury it and keep it safe. **Here is your one** talent back."

Norman was not a happy man. Norman said, "Jack you are a lazy servant! You could've taken the money to the bank and you would have got some interest from it."

So, Norman took the talent away from **Jack**, and gave it to **Daniel**.

Remember that the man we are calling Norman in this story is like God, and Norman's servants are like God's people (that's you and me!)

Norman the Boss gave each servant something to look after and use properly. Norman trusted his servants. God our Father gives each one of us something to look after and use properly.

******* We all have gifts.jpg *******

We all have gifts from God. God trusts us to look after our gifts and use our gifts properly. It does not matter if we are like Daniel and have 10 talents, or if we are like William with 2 talents, or if we are like Jack with 1 talent. It does not matter WHAT we have. No one is better than anyone else. We just have different gifts from God. God treats us all fairly. And God really wants us to use those gifts.

Remember ***We all have gifts from God.***

So what gifts might we have? We can smile, we can be kind to other people (and help them) including our carers, we can perhaps remember people's birthdays, and make them cards, some of us can help in the Scope shop, some of us can help in the Coffee pot at the FE centre, some of us can read, some of us can sing. Some of us can use computers. - there are all sorts of things that God has given us to do.

Other ideas (If you are not sure what your gift is, start with what you do well and easily. Sometimes it helps to ask someone you trust what they think is your "gift")

Remember ***We all have gifts from God.***

If we only have a small gift, that is just as important as if we had a big gift! Norman was only angry with Jack because Jack did not use what he had.

Remember that Jesus himself said, in Matthew 10:42, “*And whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple, truly I tell you, he shall in no way lose his reward.*” That’s simple! Simple things are just as important as the big things, and often get forgotten. So let’s keep it simple! Use your gift for God.

And lastly

Colossians 3:22-23

And don’t just do as little as you can. Do the best you can, as though you are doing it for Jesus and not just for other people.

Remember ***We all have gifts from God.***

Pray

Lord Jesus, thank you for giving each one of us something that we can do for you. Please help us to find out what it is, and then do it as well as we can. In Jesus’ name we pray, Amen