

## Reflection Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> November

### **Matthew 25:14-30**

14 'For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; <sup>15</sup>to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. <sup>16</sup>The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. <sup>17</sup>In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. <sup>18</sup>But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. <sup>19</sup>After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. <sup>20</sup>Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, "Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents." <sup>21</sup>His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." <sup>22</sup>And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, "Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents." <sup>23</sup>His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." <sup>24</sup>Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, "Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; <sup>25</sup> so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours." <sup>26</sup>But his master replied, "You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? <sup>27</sup>Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. <sup>28</sup>So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. <sup>29</sup>For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. <sup>30</sup>As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

Who is the most talented person you know? How do you define talent?

I am not a person who watches talent shows on TV; I gave up on that in the days of Opportunity Knocks and New Faces.

Answering my first question may have caused you to stop and think of people you know or you just carried on reading, treating it as a rhetorical question.

Some "talents" are entertaining some are useful. Some talents are skills that are practical and helpful to others.

When Jesus spoke about "Talents" in this passage he was actually talking about a sum of money - hence it could be buried in the ground or at least placed in a bank and earn interest (not in 21<sup>st</sup> Century Britain).

Our word talent, as we now use it, has its origins in the word Jesus used but the meaning has been dramatically changed.

There are churches that have used the idea of this passage to raise money by giving people a sum of money to use and through it raise more money in return by "investing" in a creative way such as baking or car washing. It can be fun and in some places very competitive but that is tough on the one who raises the least.

What Jesus was talking about was how people had or had not shared the news of God's love and purpose, shared the blessing God had given to His people Israel with the other nations around.

Jesus, by his grace, invites us to share the news of his love, grace and purpose with others. What gifts, skills, talents, and abilities have you received from God that you can use to share the good news of Jesus with others? We are all called to share the message of salvation with others. It can start with a practical action and then you may have the opportunity to say why you did it. Don't hide your light under a bushel or fail to explain the motivation for your actions if at all possible.