

Church at Home for Abridge

15th November 2020

Activities for the whole family

Matthew 25 : 14-30



1. Read through today's story in your Bible at home or find it [here](#)
2. [Here is the parable told as a reflective story](#) with wooden figures and wondering questions for the whole family
3. [Here](#) is a wordless cartoon version of the parable and [here](#) is the parable acted out by children with an interpretation
4. Here is a two verse Limerick version of the parable by Dave Hopwood

Those Who Dare

Three folks were given some cash,
And took off at quite a dash.
The first two did a lot,
Doubled all that they'd got,
But the last just sat on his stash.

The master scratched his head,
'Did you not hear what I said?
Take the gifts that I give,
And learn how to live,
Don't hide them under the bed.'

5. Big thinking together:

The story tackles a big question, namely: 'what are we to do with God's gift of life to us?' or 'how should we live this life best while waiting for Jesus to return or for heaven?' As a parable however it does contain some difficulties for us. Money is used to stand for each person's gift and it's hard to see beyond this to what it might really mean. The translation 'bags of gold' in the passage above represents the word *talent*. A talent was a large amount of money equivalent to 20 years wages. In each story it is financial profit that is offered as a picture of faithfulness with life's gift and this can also present a stumbling block to understanding the parable.

As so often with the parables, we are left with a genuine but puzzling thought about why it should not have been regarded as a faithful thing to have kept something safe and simply given back the 'trust' intact to the master on his return. The one who does this earns condemnation rather than a 'well done'. There is a lot to wonder about in this parable and maybe even the first Christians also struggled to understand what it meant.

And what about if.....any of the servants had said: I went into business with my money but the business failed and I lost the lot....or I was on my way to the city to invest it, but it was all stolen....or I was on my way to the market and I saw a beggar in great need, so I gave the bag away..

I wonder what the master would have said then?

6. Visual aid

Wrap some coins in a handkerchief and make this the focus for what the last servant did with his money.

7. Activity idea

Imagine that everyone in the family was given £5.00. Talk about how each of you might use this to do something good for others. Could you even think of ways of using it to make more money or to increase its value in some other way? You might even dare to give everyone a real two pound coin and ask them to do something practical with it over the next week. This is a picture of us using our gifts for God.

8. Prayer idea

The first two servants in the story earn the King's 'well done'. God longs to say something like this to each one of us as we work for the coming of his kingdom by using our talents and opportunities while we can. However, often we are not very good at recognizing what gifts we have. Secretly on a separate piece of paper for each member of the family other than yourself, write these words: '*God says, well done*'...then fill in the name of other members of the family one at a time – '*because God has given you the gift of.....*' then fill in something that this person is good at. Once you done this for everyone else apart from yourself, give the papers to those to whom they belong by name and have them read what each of you, on God's behalf, has written. Thank God together that he has given you all so many different talents and skills to use for him.

