

Sunday 15th November 2020

Read Matthew 25.14-30

You may like to use this material as a basis for discussion in your family.

Have you ever been trusted to look after a precious object? Or asked to do something special that would have an effect on others? It can be frightening because such occasions bring so much responsibility. Today's gospel reading is a similar story.

Jesus tells a parable of a man who, before going away, gives his slaves talents. (A talent was a unit of money worth roughly what a labourer could earn in 15 years, so we're talking about a lot of money!) When the master returns, he wants to know what they have done with the money. Two have used the money wisely, but one has done nothing – and is strongly punished.



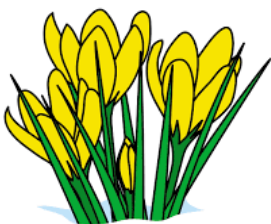
In other parables Jesus links a master or king with God – but that is not the case here. This master harsh and ruthless and goes away for a long time. That's not like God.

Do you feel sorry for the third slave? My first reaction is to feel sorry for him. He was scared of the master and he wasn't as able as the other two slaves in handling money and so he was cautious. But I also think he was lazy and not prepared to take a risk with something important. In the end he was punished very harshly.

To Jesus' hearers, this parable was about Israel and the Pharisees. Jesus was concerned that they were keeping their knowledge and love of God to themselves, burying it under lots of rules and regulations – like the slave burying the money in the ground – rather than making it open to other people or cultures. The slaves who used the money wisely were the ones who were helping God's kingdom to grow and flourish.

We each have opportunities to share our love of God with others but it is a big responsibility and it can be scary. Do you find it difficult to talk about your faith? Do you tell your friends or colleagues that you believe in God? Do you ever invite another person to come to church with you? If we feel that we have been given a special gift of God's love we should share it.

Activities



- Plant some bulbs (crocus or daffodil or tulip) in a small pot or in the garden. Water them and look after them carefully so that they grow into lovely spring flowers and everyone can enjoy the sight of them. The flowers will remind you of how the kingdom of God grows if we care for it.



The parishes of Barton, Caldecote with Childerley, Comberton,
Coton, Dry Drayton, Great and Little Eversden,
Hardwick, Harlton, Haslingfield and Toft

Prayer

Dear God, when we have a little and when we have a lot,
help us to be thankful and develop what we have been given wisely.
When we are entrusted with opportunities, help us to use them and not be fearful.
When you invite us to be your stewards, help us to work for your kingdom here on earth.
Help us to fulfil your hopes for us.
With thankful hearts and in Jesus' name. Amen.