

## KEY VERSE:

In all the work you are doing, work the best you can. Work as if you were doing it for the Lord, not for people.

*Colossians 3:23*



**THE PARISH OF CHALFONT ST PETER**

Encounter God, Encourage Others, Engage our World  
Charity Number: 1146043



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# FOUNDATION CAFÉ SERVICE

9th October, 2016



## The Parables: The Talents



**CHALFONT  
ST. PETER  
PARISH CHURCHES**

## KNOW WHAT:

- Today we look at Part 6 of a series on parables Jesus told. So far we have heard the stories of the Lost Sheep, the Lost Son, the Good Samaritan, the Two Builders and the Sower. This week we are looking at the parable of the Talents.
- A parable is an earthly story with a heavenly truth.
- Today's parable can be found in Matthew 25.
- It tells us about a rich man who goes away on a journey. When he leaves he entrusts three servants with differing amounts of money. The first receives five bags of gold, the second receives two and the third receives one bag of gold.
- Servants one and two invest their money wisely and earn more than they were given. The third servant is afraid of losing the money and so buries it in the ground.
- When the master returns he is pleased with the first two servants and gives them rewards for their hard work. The final servant is punished for being lazy as he did not use his gift wisely.

## SO WHAT:

- We all have things that we are good at. Some of those might seem more significant than others but what is most important is that we use our gifts and talents wisely.

## NOW WHAT:

- Let us look for opportunities to use our talents, particularly for God who gives the best gifts.

## LUKE'S LETTERS:

As a child I had an incredibly low frustration threshold. Others would diligently sit down to work things out and practise, but not me. If I couldn't get it perfect first time then I wasn't interested.

As I grew up this turned into a fear of failure. I developed the classic escape mechanism of not trying at all, because if I don't try I can't fail. I was exactly like the third servant who just buried his coin in the ground. It was only when it came to applying to university that I realised the mistake I had made. Suddenly coasting along wouldn't cut it and I had no time to make up for my laziness. Even knowing this I didn't manage to change my habits straight away and it wasn't until I failed the first year of my degree that I actually sorted myself out.

The thing that really sorted me out was knowing that God doesn't measure us the way we do. He doesn't give us grades at the end of each life stage, he doesn't take our car or home or bank balance into account. He knows us, knows what we love, what we're good at, knows what makes us tick. That's what he cares about. It wasn't until I realised that that I started to work hard and try my best, because I only had to perform for an audience of one.

It's easy to be the third servant in the parable of the talents and look down the row seeing how much more everyone else has. But Jesus isn't looking at them, he's looking at you, he doesn't care what they have, he cares about who you are and what you're doing. There's freedom and peace in that.