

Parish Newsletter

Quite a few people I know hold to the belief that you do not lose in giving. Or, as the diary of Anne Frank puts it, 'No one has ever become poor by giving.' Such people are closer than they think to truly understanding the meaning, as Jesus intended it, of the Parable of the Talents. I've been guilty myself of almost presenting this as some sort of exercise in venture Capitalism. It's understandable, as there is an accidental relationship between our idea of the 'Talent' as representing the talent or skill that God has given us and trying to ensure that it is used wisely. It seems to imply that if we use our God-given talents, we will find meaning and blessing in our lives – and that if we don't, it will poison our happiness and fulfilment and even distort how we view people ("I heard you were a hard man..."). But to Jesus and his listeners, a Talent was not currency or skill but a very large measure of weight, normally used for Gold or Silver, maybe as much as fifty pounds weight. So, even the one Talent man had riches indeed.

Scholars agree that the listeners of Jesus would have understood him to be talking about the weighty Mercy of God not human talents or abilities. In the life of faith, the weightiest thing



RENEWABLE TALENTS

is the Mercy of God. And you cannot hold onto it all for yourself. When you spend the divine mercy, it increases in you. The one Talent man isn't a bad man and he's not hard done by with 'just' one Talent – he simply didn't understand the gift he was given. You can't hold on to anything of God for your own possession. He also seemed to have a poor image of his Master. If you do bury things of God, as he did, they are taken away from you. It's the nature of the divine economy. Yes, we all have varied gifts, but we all have something to give and are not to count the cost. We realise that we are not all created with equal skills or talents; it's not how much we have, it's what we do with it, and we will be

held accountable. That is not a threat. There is a peril alright – but it's not necessarily our eternal destination – but more our happiness this side of eternity.

Returning to the original point, we will one day be reminded that the kingdom of heaven is not the Stock Exchange. God's love and his Kingdom are not limited commodities like ordinary money. They are the ultimate in what we call renewable energy: the more you give and utilise, the more you have.

— Tom Cox

Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you. **And with your spirit.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Sanctus

It is right and just.

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. ...

After the Consecration

The mystery of faith.

**Save us, Saviour of the world,
for by your Cross and Resurrection
you have set us free.**

THE COMMUNION RITE

At the Saviour's command ...
Our Father, who art in heaven, ...

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil, ...
**For the kingdom, the power and the glory
are yours now and for ever.**

Showing the Host to the people, the priest says:

Behold the Lamb of God, ...
Lord, I am not worthy ...

Communion Antiphon

(Ps 72:28)

**To be near God is my happiness,
to place my hope in God the Lord.**

Prayer after Communion

We have partaken of the gifts of this sacred mystery, humbly imploring, O Lord, that what your Son commanded us to do in memory of him may bring us growth in charity.
Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.



Reflection

What decisions have you made that helped to improve your quality of life?



Lesson

The choices we make influence how our life works out.



Prayer

Show me, Lord, your way so that I may walk in your truth.

Guide my heart to revere your name. (Ps 86)

