


The Parable of the Talents



ST. PAUL'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

WELCOME TO ST. PAUL'S!
SUNDAY 19 NOVEMBER 2017
TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER
PENTECOST

REFLECTIONS ON THE GOSPEL

Jesus tells the story of a master going on a long journey. He entrusts his money (*talenta*) to his three servants while he is away. The *talenta* is the greatest unit of accounting Greek money, based on the weight of a precious metal such as silver or gold. The master gives each of them the responsibility for a huge amount of money according to each one's ability. While the master is away, the servants take the initiative in managing his property.

After a long time, the master returns and calls the three servants for an accounting. The first and the second servants have doubled his money. The master is thus overjoyed and rewards them for being "good and faithful" stewards. The third servant, however, has hidden the money, for fear of his master, and now returns it to him. The master gets angry and condemns him as a "wicked, lazy servant."

Jesus' story is not difficult to understand, for the scene is very contemporary. It speaks of a down-to-earth reality about taking responsibility and being accountable to the boss for money or task. The initiative one takes will determine the success or failure of the enterprise.

As a parable, however, Jesus' story is saying something more. Matthew touches on the end-time where the master is Jesus, the Son of Man coming back to judge the world. The servants are the disciples entrusted with his work or mission while they await his coming. During his absence, since only God knows the day and hour of **Cont. pg 4**

**THE REV'D TIFFANY SPARKS PRESIDING
AND PREACHING**

Next Week's Readings

- Ezekiel 34.11-16, 20-24
- Psalm 100
- Ephesians 1.15-23
- Matthew 25.31-46

Sentence: God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other.
1 Thessalonians 5.9, 11

Collect: Everliving God, before the earth was formed, and even after it shall cease to be, you are God. Break into our short span of life and show us those things that are eternal, that we may serve your purpose in all we do; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in unity with the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

•Readings: Judges 4.1-10; Psalm 123; 1 Thessalonians 5.1-11; Matthew 25.14-30

Psalm 123

1 To you I lift up my eyes:
you who are enthroned in
the heavens.

**2 As the eyes of servants
look to the hand of their
master:
or as the eyes of a maid
toward the hand of her
mistress,**

3 So our eyes look to the
Lord our God:
until he show us his mercy.

**4 Have mercy upon us, O
Lord, have mercy upon us:
for we have had our fill of
derision.**

5 Our souls overflow with the
mockery of those at ease:
and with the contempt of
the proud.

Matthew 25.14-30

Jesus told his disciples this parable: ‘For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. 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.” 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.” 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.” 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.” 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; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.” 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? 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. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. 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. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING

We give thanks for :

- * Our Church family and community
- * Our volunteers—and all who help in the mission of the Church

We pray for :

- * The Parishes of Gympie and Red Hill
- * Abri, Residential Aged Care Facility
- * The Springfield Anglican College

For health and healing for :

Thomas Moore, Beryl and Tom Wakefield, Anthony Bugden, Saloni Paul, Fred Morrison, Theda Lowe, Jan, Romola Squire, Fr Neville and Eileen Jackson, Sue McCurdy, Gillian, Kerry Muir and Jocelyn O’Neill.

At home or nursing home :

Jean Ward, Noela Burdett and Joyce Shearing.

WHAT IS GOING ON AT ST. PAUL'S?



DEMENTIA INFORMATION

BOOK CLUB—will be meeting for our pre-Christmas dinner at 6:30pm this coming Tuesday 21 November at The Hub in Ashgrove. The book for discussion is: 'The Hare with Amber Eyes', part treasure hunt, part family saga, by Edmund de Waal, a well-known British potter. If you enjoy reading do come and join us. For details talk to Ann Caston.

BOARD GAME GROUP—Run by David Adams. Every second Saturday in the Crypt at 7.30pm. All welcome!

MORNING PRAYER & BIBLE STUDY GROUP—Wednesday mornings at 9:05am. If you are interested please come along. All Welcome!

JUBILEE TERRACE PLAY-GROUP—Fridays 9:30-11:30am. For more information contact Sarah Combe on ph: 0403 771 442 (leave a message if there is no answer).

AFTERNOON—Saturday 18 November at 2pm in the crypt—do join us if you would like to learn more about dementia care and the different stages of dementia.

GOODNA PANTRY APPEAL—November is our Goodna Pantry donation month. Baby formula, toiletries and non-perishable items such as tuna, soups, rice, cereals, coffee, tea, biscuits, muesli bars, tinned fruits, baked beans, meat meals, tinned spaghetti can be left at the back of the church throughout November.

4 DRAWER STEEL FILING CABINET—the Parish Office is in need of a 4 drawer steel filing cabinet in good order. If you have one you're not using or know of anyone who has, could you please speak with Rev'd Tiffany. *Thank you.*

PRACTICALLY SPIRITUAL—This is a group that meets once a month to reflect on theological books. Talk to Rev'd Tiffany or Rev'd Kathy on how to become involved.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE ST. PAUL'S COMMUNITY

How Funds are Used?

Your giving to our parish community helps our community grow! Your donations go towards having a full time minister, electricity, insurance, rates, copyright, cleaning, music ministry, supporting Children's Church, grounds maintenance, Mission giving to Anglican Board of Mission, Bush Ministry Fund and the Anglicare women's' shelter. These are agencies that provide clean water to 3rd world communities, educational opportunities and safe shelters to the vulnerable. Without your contributions our parish would not be able to support a full time minister, pay the costs of running the parish and to support these wonderful missions. Every dollar goes towards making a difference to Ashgrove and to the world.

HEARING IMPAIRED?

St Paul's has provision for people with hearing impairment. A headset is available from the back of church, or a receiver for those with a hearing aid (turn on and switch ear piece to the T switch).

We are on the web!

stpaulsashgrove.org.au

**ANGLICAN CHURCH
OF AUSTRALIA**

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OUR MISSION

**WE PARTICIPATE IN
GOD'S MISSION OF
TRANSFORMING
INDIVIDUALS AND
COMMUNITIES,
OFFERING MEANING
FOR TODAY AND HOPE
FOR TOMORROW
THROUGH JESUS
CHRIST.**

HELP US GROW!!!

Bank online!!

For easier ways to give and build up St. Paul's and our mission. Give online.

Account Name: Ithaca-Ashgrove Anglican Parish.
BSB 704901 Acc No 00004420



BITCOINS ACCEPTED HERE!!!

St. Paul's is the first Church in Australia to accept virtual currency! Scan code for our wallet details!



WHO ARE WE? MINISTRY AT ST. PAUL'S

Rector:

The Reverend Tiffany Sparks
0405224616

tiffany.sparks@stpaulsashgrove.org.au

Hon Associate Priest: The Reverend Pam Hynd: pam.hynd@stpaulsashgrove.org.au

Honorary Priests: The Reverend Kathy Hammer and the Reverend Jack Hammer: jkhammer@bigpond.net.au

Wardens: Peoples Wardens: Sarah Combe and Rae Haggarty; **Priest's Warden:** George McCallan

Welcoming-Care Group: Elizabeth Sillano and Gill Outen

Choir: Robyn Carl

Rosters: Tiffany Sparks

Thrift Shop: Margaret Marshall & Deborah Walker

Mother's Union: Joy Lloyd

Playgroup: Sarah Combe

Book Club: Ann Caston

For all inquiries please email the office: info@stpaulsashgrove.org.au

From pg 1:

... his return, the disciples are enjoined to be watchful and to act appropriately as responsible stewards. Good and faithful disciples imitate God, who is good, and are consistent with their commitment as trusted servants. They will be rewarded with greater tasks and responsibilities as they enter into the joy and abundance of the reign of God. On the contrary, the disciples who do not perceive the love and trust of the master for them and do not appropriately act or take risks on their tasks and responsibilities, due to fear and laziness, cannot come before God's presence. The parable speaks about discipleship, especially the relationship of trust and love between the Master and the disciples, and the latter's commitment to fulfill the tasks and responsibilities entrusted them in the Christian community.

365 Days with the Lord 2017

