

Wednesday 26th August 2020

MT 25:14-15, 19-21

Jesus told his disciples this parable: "A man going on a journey called in his servants and entrusted his possessions to them. To one he gave five talents; to another, two; to a third, one—to each according to his ability. Then he went away. After a long time, the master of those servants came back and settled accounts with them. The one who had received five talents came forward bringing the additional five. He said, 'Master, you gave me five talents. See, I have made five more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, my good and faithful servant. Since you were faithful in small matters I will give you great responsibilities. Come, share your master's joy.'"

It is such a shame good talent going to waste. By this I mean to watch someone like a brilliant footballer who was top of his game but unfortunately turned to drink, and lost everything he had including his family and eventually his life far, far too early. Or a top manager who forgets that it is his workforce who is important not him or her. You must encourage and be kind to all who are employed by you. By doing this you will get much more in return from your employees. And respect because they know that you respect them.

There was a Farmer and he had three sons it was a big farm it contained within it an orchard which always had an abundance of fruit. The other fields held a good number of sheep. The youngest son had a super talent, he was very musical and enjoyed playing his violin. The farmer decided to take his wife on a lovely holiday and left the sons in charge of the farm and the community within. He was depending on them to look after the people in and around the farm. Everything was trundling along okay but the winter came early and there was no time to prepare for the onset of the cold winter. Short of logs for the fires the two eldest sons found it hard as they had to ensure the people were warm and fed as their father had given them that responsibility. The orchard keeper was very concerned as to whether he should let the people cut down the trees to warm their houses. He waited until he absolutely had no choice as the people were so cold and unable to do anything but he did allow them enough to get heat in their homes. It was just about impossible to get food delivered to the farm and the second son had the same predicament as his brother only it was the sheep that he would have to let them have to keep them from starving. When he saw some children crying with hunger he felt so bad for them and the families he let them come to kill some of the sheep for food. But the winter was going on and on and the people were really feeling it long and they were feeling pretty low as there was no one they felt to cheer up the long days and nights. The clever musical son sat back and would not play anything for them to cheer their spirits. There was some who were so fed up they moved to other parts of the world to try and make things better for themselves.

When the farmer arrived home, he was very deeply upset to find his people had moved away. He asked his sons what had gone on to make them leave. The older sons both said that they hoped he would not be angry with them as they had both chosen to give away some of the assets of the farm. Trees for heat and sheep for food. Their Father was happy that they had chosen to help the people and he was glad they had done what was the right thing to do. The musical son came forward and told his Father that he did not play for the people because he was not there with them to hear him play and enjoy the music. His Father turned to him and asked him to play a tune for him now as his heart was broken at what had happened. The son lifted his violin to play but he could not play a note. His Father told him that the stiffness he was feeling was his punishment for not helping to lift up the spirits of the people by refusing to play. It really is your fault that the people left. You have let them get so unhappy that they left. If you had played for them, it would have helped to lift their spirits up and they would have stayed.

This son was like the third servant in the lesson of Christ giving the servant talents and told them to go and work to increase the value. But the lazy servant buried them and did nothing for them he was, of course told off by Jesus. Just as the farmer's son was disappointed in his third son who did nothing to help the people have we used all our God given talents to their best or have we sat on the side-lines and buried our heads in the sand? But we must use our gifts humbly or we must not work so hard to 'be the best', to be materialistic and forget to share with others along the way. We have been give our different talents by God but we must use them to the glory and praise of Christ Jesus the king to give him the honour and we must learn to live and grow as the good Lord wants us to be.

Help us, Father to be the people you want us to be and to live with one another as you have loved us. Amen