

TRINITY NEWS

Pentecost 23 The Parable of the Talents

Matthew 25: 14-15, 19-29.

This parable is not complex, but it has many implications. A “talent” was a sum that we cannot measure in the value of our own currency. Let’s say that the value was not small.

A property owner goes on a journey and entrusts his property to servants. Three of them are singled out. He also gives them money to invest. To the most capable of the three he gives five talents, a considerable trust. To the second most capable he gives two talents and to the least capable, he gives only one talent.

The first two double the investment, but the third buries his money in the ground rather than risk the wrath of his master if he fails to increase his money in hand.

When the master returns he commends the two productive servants and condemns the unproductive one because he did not trust the character and intentions of the owner.

It is all about the Reign of God and our part in it. The Reign of God is geared for expansion, not for standstill or shrinkage.

Jesus’ teaching about stewardship, “how we share”, always digs into motivations.

A rich person who becomes mean loses the capacity to share. A poor person who crushes someone who is even poorer loses the capacity to be compassionate, at least in part.

The living body of Christ in the world, the Church, is a voluntary organization. Everything it has comes from its people, the Community of Faith. Unlike the servants of the landowner, no one is forced to make an “investment”, with either rewards or punishments for performance.

We give as we able after a realistic assessment of our resources and capacities. It is a custom in the Church to make a special offering when we are thankful for something in our life. It may be an academic achievement, a promotion, successful surgery on any number of things that gladden our hearts.

This note of **thanksgiving** is a mark of all honoured giving in the Church.

We are the best stewards of our own lives, whether it is in using our abilities or our resources. We make the decisions and we have to live with them.

God has entrusted us with a mission in the world. The financial aspect of being together is reviewed here every week in the Bulletin. Many wonderful things happen which cannot be measured. They are all important. Not one of them is more important than loving God with all our heart and soul and strength and our neighbour as ourselves.

But the one that tests us acutely is the one that can be measured on a tally sheet. A generous heart cannot be bought and a mean spirit is limited in generosity.

May we give generously and help to increase the evidence of the Reign of God in the world in our small patch through the total stewardship of our lives.

Bishop Arthur Jones

THIS WEEK:

Monday, November 17.

- Finance Committee meeting, 5:30pm, Parish Office
- Vestry Meeting, 6:30pm, Rectory.

Wednesday, November 19.

- Bible study, 10:00am

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

Ezekiel 34:11-17; Psalm 95; 1 Corinthians 15:20-28
Matthew 25:31-46

UPCOMING EVENTS:

November 23.

- NCCP Sunday, 9:30am. Speaker: Obispo Maximo Ephraim Fajutagana, Philippine Independent Church
- Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service & Dinner, 7:30pm

December 14. Lessons and Carols, 7:30pm

The **Rt. Rev. Renato Abibico** will be installed as the 5th Prime Bishop of the Episcopal Church in the Philippines on Thursday, **20th November 2014,** **9:00am** at the **Cathedral of St. Mary & St. John**, 277 E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City. Everyone is sincerely invited to grace this occasion. Bishop Abibico has requested Bishop Jones to be the preacher.