

Reflection Wednesday Week 33 St Hilda 2020

Luke's parable of the talents is different to the one we heard on Sunday from Matthew, yet, the message is essentially the same. Some people would react to Luke's version by wanting to get to know the first servant who made 10 pounds out of one he had received and pay him to become their investor We are reminded once again that if we do not use our gifts, it is not that we will lose them, it will be as if they never existed in the first place. The second lesson is that if we use our gifts well, generously and selflessly for others and for the love of God, we will always benefit.

Long ago a man sold everything he had, and bought a single lump of gold. He took the gold and buried it in a field next to a tree, to remind himself of its location.

Each day, the man visited his treasure. He would sit next to the tree and just stare at the spot where it was buried. The man's servant noticed his master's daily trips and decided to follow him. The servant hid in the shadows and watched the man gloating over a spot on the ground. After his master left, the servant went to the spot and started to dig and, very soon, the servant found the lump of gold, took it and ran away with it, never to be seen again.

The next day, the man came back to visit his gold and finding it stolen. He began to scream and cry.

A woman heard his screams as she passed the field and, seeing a man in distress, she ran to him and asked, "What is wrong? Why are you in such pain?"

The man told her how he had sold all his worldly possessions for a single lump of gold and that he had buried it in the ground. He cried, "My only real joy in life was to come to this field and gaze at my treasure?"

Taken aback, the woman asked, "You sold everything for a lump of gold, buried it and your only joy was to come to this field and stare at it? "Yes," the man said quietly.

"You never did anything with the money? You were never going to spend it or use it for anything?" "No, the man replied, "I just wanted to look at it."

"Oh, in that case," the woman said in a comforting voice, "just cover the hole where your gold used to be with a stone and visit the stone every day. You will be no worse off than before when your gold was there and was of no real good to you!"

An old man selling watermelons says: 1 for \$3 & 3 for \$10, A young man stops and buys one watermelon. That'll be \$3 dollars", says the old man. The young man then buys another, and then another, paying \$3 for each. Walking away the young man turns around and grins, saying, "Hey old man, do you realize I just bought three watermelons for \$9? Maybe business is not your thing."

The old man smiles and mumbles to himself, "People are funny. Every time they buy three watermelons instead of one, they keep trying to teach me how to do business!!!"