



UNITY IN DIVERSITY

St Oliver's Mini Newsletter

Term 4

Week 7

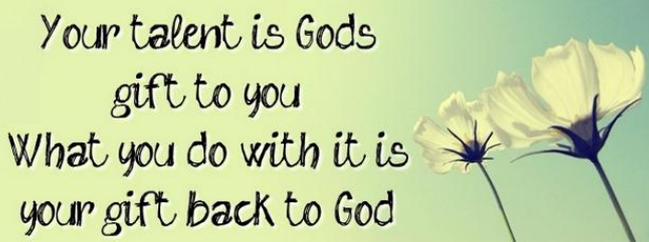
2014

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Gospel Mt 25:14-30



A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew Shorter Form

Because you have been faithful over a few things, enter into the joy of the Lord.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus spoke this parable to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a man on his way abroad who summoned his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to a third one; each in proportion to his ability. Then he set out. Now a long time after, the master of those servants came back and went through his accounts with them. The man who had received the five talents came forward bringing five more. "Sir", he said "you entrusted me with five talents; here are five more that I have made." His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master's happiness."

Reflection

Our readings this weekend help us reflect on using our gifts to the best of our ability. Each of us is unique, and each has different talents. All that God expects is that we make the most of them, and that we use them for good. We are God's creation and God knows that we are not perfect. God's expectation is that we try to be the best we can be and to treat each other with kindness and love.

As well as being grateful for the blessings that God has given us, we must also use those blessings to help build God's kingdom. We all have different talents and gifts so we all have different tasks to do in the kingdom. What are your gifts? Do you use them?

The last servant, who was given \$100, was afraid he would lose the money and that his master would be angry, so he buried it in the ground. Jesus is trying to tell us that each of us receives a certain amount of gifts. Some people are very smart, some are born into rich families, others are not as smart, or are born into poverty. Our challenge is to do the best with what we have, to make the most of what we are. If we try to do our best in whatever situation we find ourselves in – if we try to be kind and care about others, and if we try to use the gifts God has given us, then we too will be rewarded. At the end of our lives God will say to us, 'Come, be happy with me.'

We don't want to be like the other servant who hid his money. That is what we are like when we don't even try to do the best we can. I think that is what God expects – that we just do the best we can, and we will be rewarded.

Prayer



Dear God, you have given us many gifts so that we may work for the coming of your Kingdom. Hear our prayers and help us to remain faithful to you. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen

Franca Bonserio

Religious Education Coordinator



Reading for Meaning - Comprehension

While the mechanics of reading, such as recognising sounds and words, are very important, they are really just stepping stones on the path to literacy. The ultimate goal of reading is to be able to understand and interpret what is being read.

To be able to accurately understand written material, children need to be able to:

1. **decode** what they read;
2. **make** connections between what they read and what they already know; and
3. **think** deeply about what they have read.

One important part of comprehension is having a good vocabulary, that is: knowing and understanding the meaning of enough words. With the help of their parents and teachers, children can learn strategies to improve and strengthen their comprehension skills.

What Parents can do to help at home:

- Introduce the book **before** your child begins reading it.
- Talk about the title and the front cover.
- Ask your child what the book might be about.
- Discuss where the story is happening and ask them what they know about this for example, if the book is about a zoo animal remind them of your visit to the zoo and talk about what you saw and what you know about this animal. With younger children, discuss any pictures in the book together before your child begins reading.
- Have a conversation with your child and discuss what your child has read. Ask your child questions about the book and help them to make connections between what they have read and other similar stories in movies, other books or events in their own life. For example, say “I wonder why that girl did that?” or “how do you think that character was feeling? Why” and “How would you feel if/when that happened to you?”
- Help your child to monitor their understanding. Teach them to continually stop and ask themselves if they understand what they are reading. Perhaps even read a longer text in short sections, discussing each part as they go.
- Encourage your child to go back to the text to support their answers. “Where does it say that?” “What happened that made you think that?”
- Discuss the meanings of words with your child, both those they hear and those they read. For example what can the word ‘*bank*’ mean? The *bank* where we keep our money and a river *bank*.

Scholastic Book Club – Issue 8

Orders for this issue are now closed.