

100 days with Jesus

Group Study No: 14

Luke 19:11-26

Introduction

Robin Gamble who wrote, '100 Days with Jesus' says, "As a teenager I was a football obsessive, watching it, reading about it in magazines, playing and fantasising about it. Of course, I was nothing like my superheroes, in fact, I was nothing like the best players in my school or even my class. I was a four talent footballer, I was always surrounded by others with eight, nine or ten talents. I was also surrounded by one, two and three talent players but that's another picture. The point is, I never compared myself to the lesser talents and thought 'Oh, I'm ok at this game'. I always looked at the biggest and the best and thought, 'They are really good but I'm pretty rubbish.

When I started following Jesus it was exactly the same. I was in a big Christian youth group and good with the God talk, but not so good at the walk. There were always others who were nicer, kinder, more prayerful and less screwed up than me.

The same thing happened when I became a young vicar, an older vicar and even now when I am a pretty ancient vicar. There are always others who are wiser, more peaceful, less angry and more Godly. I seem to be permanently living as a four to six talent person surrounded by superstars.

Actually this story is not about giving us marks. Jesus is not a judge in 'Strictly Come Christian', holding up a notice board and commenting on our footwork. He is an encourager, not a 'pointer-outer'. That is to say, whether we are very talented or have lesser things to offer, he welcomes all of us as fellow Kingdom builders. It is about every one of us offering, giving, trying, doing and never burying."

Discussion

1. Do you think God gives everyone a talent?

2. If God has given you one talent, what do you think it is?

3. Why do you think the third servant hid his talent?

4. Are you ever tempted to hide your talents?

5. Why do you think the master was so angry with the third servant?

6. What do you think v26 means when it says 'to everyone who has, more will be given'?

Prayer

Lord God,
Help me to be the person you have made me,
To use the talent you have given me,
To reflect the light you have shone on me,
And to live the life you have opened for me.
Amen.