

# Use

Your God-Given Gifts  
to serve others.



## This Sunday's Gospel

33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

**Matthew 25: 14-30**

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. 'The man who had received the five talents promptly went and traded with them and made five more. The man who had received two made two more in the same way. But the man who had received one went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. '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." 'Next the man with the two talents came forward. "Sir," he said "you entrusted me with two talents; here are two 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." 'Last came forward the man who had the one talent. "Sir," said he "I had heard you were a hard man, reaping where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered; so I was afraid, and I went off and hid your talent in the ground. Here it is; it was yours, you have it back." But his master answered him, "You wicked and lazy servant! So you knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered? Well then, you should have deposited my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have recovered my capital with interest. So now, take the talent from him and give it to the man who has the five talents. For to everyone who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough; but from the man who has not, even what he has will be taken away. As for this good-for-nothing servant, throw him out into the dark, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.'"



**The Gospel of the Lord**

# Prayer One

## The Sign of the Cross

Let us remember that everything we do is  
In the name of the Father, and of  
the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen



Use your  
**GOD-GIVEN GIFTS**  
to serve others.  
1 PETER 4:10

***Reflection: This week's Gospel is often called  
the Parable of the Talents***

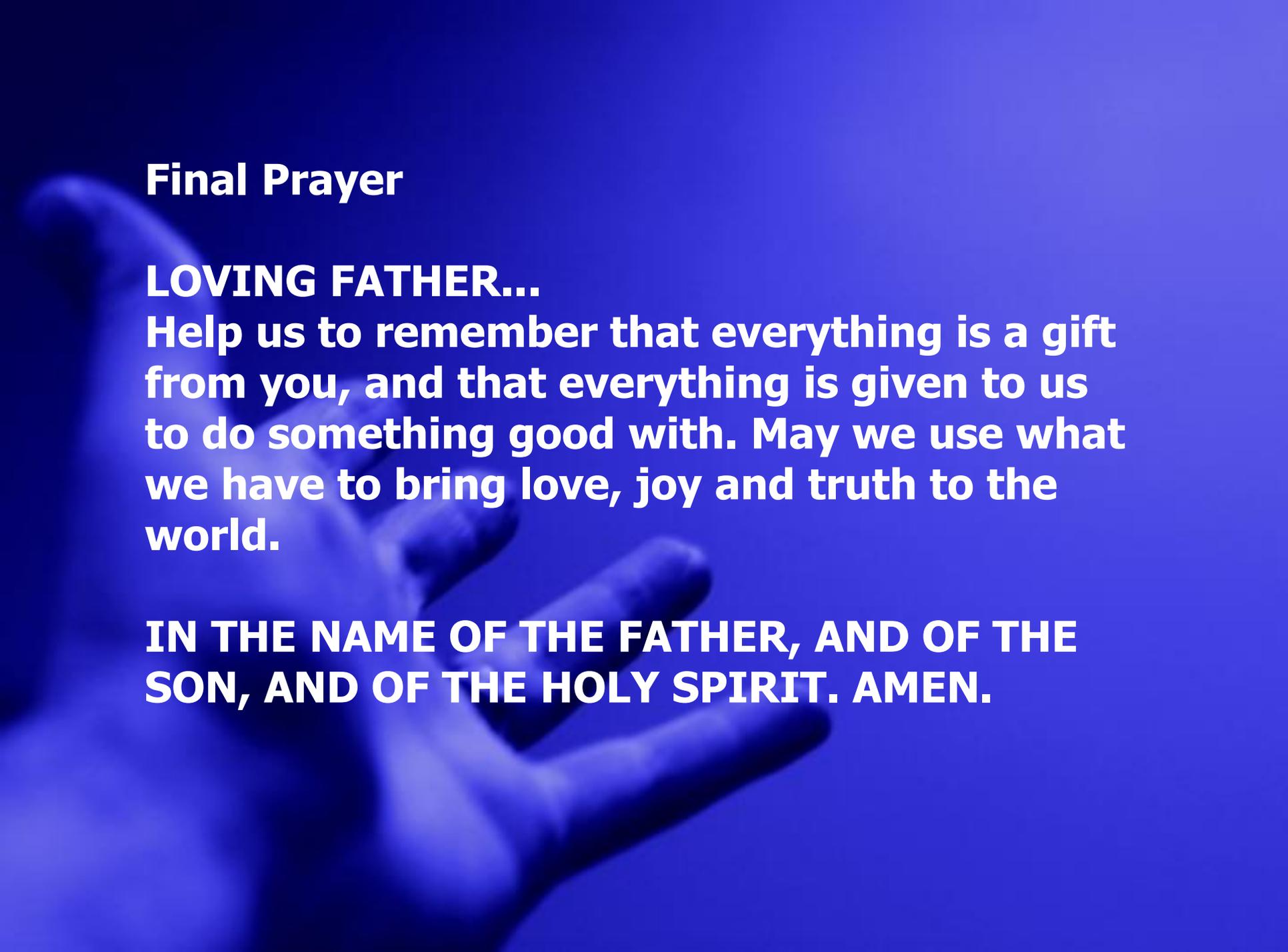
**The word talent refers to a unit of currency. It's not actually about skills and abilities, but a lot of people read this parable as a message about using the gifts we have in the service of God and of others.**

**It's a slight misinterpretation to be fair, but nevertheless it's still a solid and important message. We all have gifts, skills, and abilities. We all have the choice about whether to use them or not, and about what to use them for. We are called, of course, to use them for something good and positive, and we are told that if we do it will make a difference to something really important.**

**So...**

**This morning take some time to think about the things you can do...**

**How are you using those things for others and for God?**



## **Final Prayer**

**LOVING FATHER...**

**Help us to remember that everything is a gift from you, and that everything is given to us to do something good with. May we use what we have to bring love, joy and truth to the world.**

**IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, AND OF THE SON, AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. AMEN.**

# Prayer Two

## The Sign of the Cross

Let us remember that everything we do is  
In the name of the Father, and of  
the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen



***Reflection: In this week's Gospel, we are reminded of one of the more challenging and difficult truths of our faith...***



**Something that we often push to the back of our minds and refuse to focus on: the fact that we are able to reject God and the things that he has given us.**

**Christian life isn't just about being given things and then blissfully getting on with our own lives.**

**It is about making the choice to walk with God. Sometimes that's easy. Sometimes it's really hard. But we have to stick with it, because what we get in return is really worth it.**

**So... if you believe in God, take some time to ask yourself if you are really living out your faith in the way that you should. If things are going wrong, how can you fix them?**

# Final Prayer



**LOVING FATHER...**

**May we always remember that  
Christian life is about co-operating  
with you and choosing to follow you.  
Give us the courage and the strength  
to do just that.**

**IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, AND  
OF THE SON, AND OF THE HOLY  
SPIRIT. AMEN.**

# Prayer Three

## The Sign of the Cross

Let us remember that everything we do is  
In the name of the Father, and of  
the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen



### *Reflection*

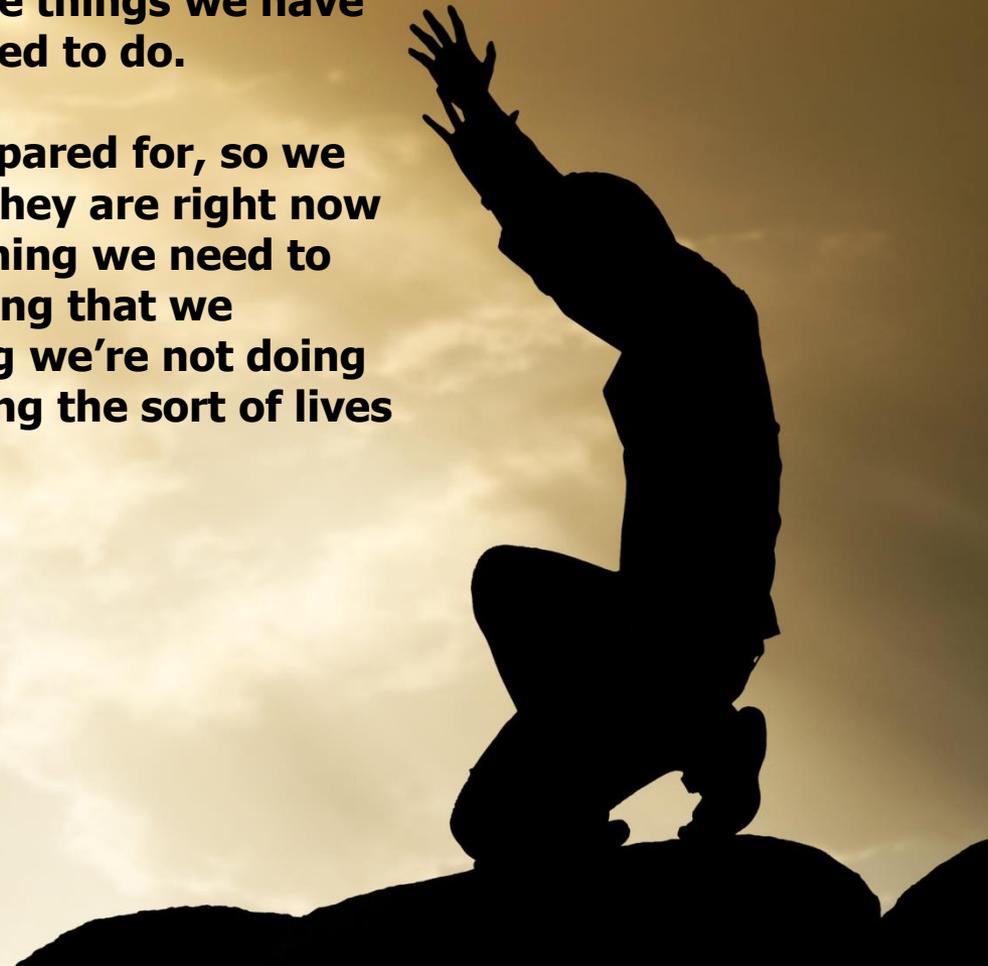
*This week's Gospel is a story about being accountable.*



**It's a story about people having to explain themselves and about the consequences of what they have to say.**

**A key part of the Christian faith is that one day we will be judged. We will stand before God and we will be called to account for our lives. For the things we have done, and for the things we have failed to do.**

**That is something we want to be prepared for, so we need to start looking at our lives as they are right now and asking ourselves if there is anything we need to change. Is there anything we are doing that we shouldn't be doing? Is there anything we're not doing that we should be doing? Are we living the sort of lives that Christians should be?**



# Final Prayer

**LOVING FATHER...**

**Help us to be honest when we look at our lives,  
and help us to have the wisdom and the strength to  
make changes if we need to.**

**In all things, let us know how much you love us.**

**IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, AND OF THE SON,  
AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. AMEN**



# Final Thought...



*Next weeks theme: **Youth***