

THE PARABLE OF THE TALENTS (KS1)

Concept – Using what we have been given/God as provider

The biblical 'talent' was a large sum of money. In English, a talent also refers to a natural ('God-given?') skill or ability. The parable Jesus told in Matthew 25:14-30 could be referring to the use or misuse of either. Sing the refrain to the tune of "Here we go round the mulberry bush".

Once upon a time, there was a very rich man who said, "I'm so rich, I think I need a holiday to spend some of my money." So he called his staff together and said (*sing*), "I'm going away on holiday, holiday, holiday, I'm going away on holiday, spend my money wisely." So off he went.

The first servant said (*sing*), "I'm going to buy a factory, factory, factory, I'm going to buy a factory, to make a lot of money!" So he bought a factory and started making things.

The second servant said, "I'm going to buy a little shop, little shop, little shop, I'm going to buy a little shop to make a lot of money!" So he bought a little shop and started selling things.

But the third servant thought to himself, I'm scared! I'm not clever! I'll lose it all! So he said, "This is the way I dig a hole, dig a hole, dig a hole, this is the way I dig a hole to hide a lot of money!"

When the rich man came back from his

holidays he asked them, "How did you spend the cash I left, cash I left, cash I left, how did you spend the cash I left? How did you spend my money?"

The first servant said, "Here it is, with lots of dosh, lots of dosh, lots of dosh! Here it is, with lots of dosh, ready to spend tomorrow."

The second servant said, "Here it is, with lots of dosh, lots of dosh, lots of dosh! Here it is, with lots of dosh, ready to spend tomorrow."

But the third servant said, "Oh dear."

And the rich man said, "I think you're a lazy toad, lazy toad, lazy toad, I think you're a lazy toad, so give it all to the others."

Jesus asked, "Who made the best use of all the talents they had been given?" God gives gifts to us all, abilities, talents and interests we can use or waste. What will you do with the gifts you have? (*sing*) "Use your talents or lose the lot, lose the lot, lose the lot, use your talents or lose the lot . . . use your talents wisely!"



Discuss with children why the third man was too frightened to use the money. Have you ever been frightened of doing something new and strange? What could help you to be braver?

Re-enact the story with groups of children as narrators. The first/second servant could both have a group with them to act out 'making/selling things', accompanied with sound effects or a backing track.

Write a story about a child learning not to be afraid about something.

Explore what 'gifts' the children have been given. Has everything been bought or are some gifts free? Who provides them? Why? Do they use the skills they have been given effectively for themselves, or for others? What new 'gifts' would they like as they grow older?