

AUGUST 30, 2025, DEACON ROBERT KINGHORN

Well, I have to say, first of all, that I often get confused by this story, this parable. You know, I think anyone who's got money, and maybe you've invested it, may wonder when you go back afterwards—are any left of this money after all—and you haven't managed to gain anything. So there must be some other meaning to this gospel message today.

The first thing I want to remind you is parables are not always to be taken exactly literally. I mean, what they're about is saying, Where am I in this parable? Which of these people that's in the parable resembles me and what I do in life? So they're meant to be stories that teach a moral or a spiritual truth.

So the first thing I have to say is when we talk about a talent, they're not talking about how well someone sings like Jonathan did today. It's not that type of talent they're talking about. A talent was a weight of measure, and it was given to a person in gold or silver. So that's what people had received—a lot of money. A lot of money they had to look after. So this is what the talent was and what Jesus was talking about.

And you know, it's something that we totally don't deserve. We're given so much in our life that we don't deserve. So I think this is what we look at—what have we been given that we don't deserve? And the first thing we think about is the mercy of God. We don't deserve this, do we?

Right at the beginning of the Eucharist, often we say, I confess to Almighty God and to brothers and sisters that I have sinned through my fault. We confess that we don't deserve the great mercy of God. So I think this is what the talents in these readings today remind us about—that we have been given things which we don't deserve, the mercy of God—and so we have to use these things for helping other people.

I think this is a fundamental message that's coming across in this reading today, this beautiful reading—that we take the talents we've been given, the talents of being with people and ministering with them and reminding them how much God loves them. This is a talent that we have been given.

And who do we minister to? The poor, the people of the Beatitudes. But we're always reminded that the people of the Beatitudes remind us of who God is. This is Jesus himself, remember. Jesus said, "As long as you did it to one of these, the least of my brothers and sisters, you did it to me."

So in a wonderful way, this parable today is saying, We have received the mercy of God, and we give it back to God by ministering to the people, the people in nothing homes. We do that each time we minister, and you know the great thing about it—it's the more that we minister, the more we receive as well. Isn't that what that parable is about? That the gifts that they had were multiplied.

So it's in many ways in our ministry that we bring this grace that God has given to us, we offer it to the people we're with, the people of Beatitude. And through that, this is Jesus returning that, getting the gift in return from us.

So this, I think, is what the Eucharist is about, isn't it? That God gives us this great gift. And as the old saying is, "If you don't use it, you lose it." And I think that too was what the parable was about—the one who hid it and didn't use it. If you don't use it, you do lose it.

And yet we get back—we get back to loving God and being with Him in this great Eucharist. Through the actions and words of people of mercy, we are the ones who are showing the mercy of God to people. And this is our talent as we reach out to other people—those who can't give us back in return—but we reach out.

And through God's mercy, through this Eucharist, Jesus himself becomes present to us and gives us back more than we ever give.