

Talents and Treasure Fr Michael 19/11/17

We have two readings this morning which offer us a challenge - the Gospel tells of the Master who gave money to his slaves to do something with while he was away - the man who merely buried it in the ground got punished!

A 'talent' was approximately 15 years earnings for a labourer.

The first two slaves heard the call of Jesus and used what they were given to 'create more' they returned the money with 'interest.'

The last slave buried what he was given - He buried the money - the equivalent of not putting the light on a stand so it can shine out and give light to others - he could represent Israel - who had been called to be 'the light of the world' - but they had buried that treasure - they had kept it for themselves - they repeatedly were told to shine out - that God would bless through Israel - but no, they wound themselves into knots over their rules, their laws and the keeping of them - they bound themselves up - they couldn't spread the word about God because they were buried under restrictions.

The treasure was buried. They had done nothing with it.

Now Paul, encourages us - not to worry - we are children of God's new world - we are not asleep like people in darkness - we are in the light, 'daytime people.'

We are protected from the darkness by our armour - a trio of -

Faith
Love
and Hope

The breastplate of faith and love - and the helmet of hope.

Salvation is our hope - it is our helmet - because we are saved by the cross of Jesus. Jesus died for us that we might live forever - we don't need to worry about the future, about what might or might not happen - and meanwhile we don't need to worry about our earthly life time as the armour of faith hope and love will protect us from darkness - from all that is wrong - from not shining our light out into the world - we don't need to worry about buried treasure because we will use our treasure for the good of everyone in the world.

Amen.