

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA  
BINSKARTH - FOXWARREN PASTORAL CHARGE.  
SUNDAY SERVICE OF WORSHIP  
JUNE 3, 1973

Meditation We believe that it is the program needs that should dictate budget requirements, and not budget that determines the program. As a finance committee we don't want to make unilateral decisions. As a Finance Committee we are not playing a power game. We think it is important that we have what you feel and see, rather than simply what we feel and see about what happens in your committee.

- 1973 Working Principle of  
Manitoba Conference Finance Cttee.

OPENING WORSHIP

OPENING HYMN 50 / 637 by Mrs Betty Pash and  
Mrs Frances Widdicomb.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Father we have sinned in many ways.  
We have not loved you with all our hearts.  
We have not loved one another as we should.  
Sometimes we have let pride rule us,  
Sometimes anger;  
Sometimes our sin has been carelessness;  
Sometimes resentment, or impatience, or  
greed.

Forgive us.

We need your love. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Psalms 104:10-34

724

Luke 13:1-20

Proverbs

30:1-11

Matthew 25:14-29

HYMN 131 / 530

SERMON: "Repentance" by Ed Williams.  
"Parable of the Talents" by  
Norman Turnbull.

Announcements

Rev. R.L. Burton is in Brandon attending Manitoba Annual Church Conference this week end.

At 2:00 PM. this afternoon a Veterans Memorial Day service will be held in the Memorial Cenotaph. Following the Memorial Decoration of Wreaths and flowers on the Memorial, a service will take place at the Memorial Hall. Mr. Dennis Trinder will be guest speaker.

We wish Mr Ed Williams and Mr. Walter Hall well on the 5 week 'Old Country' trip. They depart June 11th from Winnipeg.

OFFERTORY AND DEDICATION

ANTHEM: Binscarth Senior Choir.

PASTORAL PRAYER:

HYMN: 172 / 498

BLESSING:

A PRAYER.

Oh God our Father, to whom all hearts are open  
help us to increase our spending for thing eternal.  
Help us to count all things a loss that do not help  
us to win Thee, and winning ~~the~~ help us to so govern  
ourselves that others will be led to Thee through the  
example ~~we have of Thee~~ *Thou hast given us.*

We, thank Thank thee for the good things of life:  
for all Thy many mercies shown to us and which we so  
often take for granted. We thank Thee for the experiences  
of this life and the lessons we learn from them.  
We thank Thee for divine guidance to higher things.

Teach us the value of honest doubt. May we bring all  
our questions into the light of Thy infinite wisdom.  
Guide us in our daily living that we may respond to the many ~~human~~  
human needs around us to the end that Thy prayer  
Thy Kingdom Come be not thoughtless repetition.

In Jesus name, who taught us to pray,

Our Father who art in Heaven.....

Jesus Christ  
and

The Quality of Life.

The Parable of the Talents.

Heights & hollows.

Broad and plain.

The power of the common  
man

The two talent man.

Two talent man not numerous  
enough. Power in his wealth.

The one talent man also not  
numerous. Ignored because of his poverty

The two talent man. Noticeable only  
for his plodding honesty & purpose. Neither  
very rich nor very poor - no extreme to  
make comparison - But possessing  
great power by his very mediocrity. A  
force to be reckoned with in the world.

1  
Sunday June 3<sup>d</sup> 1973.

Old Testament Proverbs 30: 1-9

New Testament Matthew 25: 14-29

Adapted from Sermon by Phillips Brooks

"The man with two talents."

The Possession of Powers.

1.  
The two  
Extremes

The man with five talents. Exhilarated.  
Inspired. or perhaps Paralyzed - Overcome

The man with one talent. Started  
at the smallness of the trust. Stung  
to energy. Do something strong, good.  
Or Crushed into despair. The master  
must think him unworthy.

The possession  
of  
power

Calm of  
face  
unperturbed.

The man of two talents stands and  
looks at his trust. Just about what  
he might have expected. Not very great  
nor yet very small. Rather exalted or  
ashamed. He turns away and goes  
calmly out to use it. The type of  
common mediocrity. The Average Man

II  
yet their  
talents are  
a direct  
contribution to  
God.

Is it not a fact that we  
are humanly interested in extremes. So  
we pay more attention to the man  
with five talents and the man with  
one. They do represent extremes. In a  
way both the five talent man and  
the one talent man are imprisoned by  
fears. Environment, ignorance and prejudice.

Not so the two talent man. He has  
enough to satisfy him. His is the choice.  
He can sit still and do nothing if he  
wishes or he can continue calmly on his  
way and in his own fashion add another  
two talents to his gift. He is not very  
rich nor very poor. Not noticeable  
because of excess or of defect. The man  
with gifts like millions of others. The  
Average Man.

The  
Average  
man

Are we not, most of us, like the two  
talent man. We do not lay claim to  
five talents nor will we confess to  
one. Is not human life made up  
of average mistakes. A mass of two talented

## Capacity and action.

Comparison  
Comparison

Rich  
5  
Talent

Poor  
1  
Talent

The five talent man could envision great opportunities with his wealth. With his wealth came greater responsibilities. So he kept in everyone's eye, so to speak. Prestige.

The one talent man had no such encouragement and it seems that if he had vision he quickly became discouraged. No one to challenge him. No friends to shout acclaim at his achievement.

Rich  
Poor

Character  
of  
Community

Again we have extremes. The very rich and the very poor. But the real character of a community lies neither in its millionaires nor in its paupers. But in the men of middle life who have neither more money than they know how to spend nor are they pressed and embarrassed for necessities of life.

These comparisons hold good in all walks of life. In joy, in sorrow.  
Average man In mental capacity. Most men are neither sages nor fools. In learning few men are either scholars or dunces.

When one comes to the profounder things of life. Character - Religion. Here too the average fills the eye. Where are Heroes? You can find them if you look. Rascals? You can find them too. Saints? They shine where no true man's eyes can fail to see them. The blasphemers too. No one can shut them out of his ears.

Host of humanity  
 But the great host of humanity what of them? How little reason they give to expect from them great goodness or great wickedness. If we let ourselves dwell too long on this thought we can see mediocrity stretching away to the horizon of man's endeavours. A vast plain, a rolling expanse of the

V

Commonplace. Surroundings in which the mass of two talents live the world to themselves. Lending ourselves more of two talents there seems no future in life other than adding, by our very existence, a little more monotony and oppression to the monotonous and oppressive life of the world.

We cannot get rid of such oppression by denying or ignoring the fact of mediocrity. Only by redeeming mediocrity in our own and other men's esteem can we restore the healthy thought of life which has been disturbed by the very vastness of the commonplace.

Adding  
ourselves  
of  
oppression  
  
Quality  
of  
our life

There are dangers in the commonplace. Take a young man full of enthusiasm and vigor. As we say, "going to go" what happens to him when he finally discovers that the golden dreams he had have faded into grey day commonness? I'd not

VI

Craving for

hot air.

To be noticed

Danger!

this perhaps an underlying reason  
for much of our "youth problem"  
among us. Is the two talent lad  
not perhaps trying to gain some of  
the notice given to the five talent fellow.  
Trying to pull himself out of the  
stream of mediocrity. Trying to grasp  
one more at that stream he had. It  
seems to me there is a great danger  
at that point in a young man's life.  
He has his two talents and is  
standing there, at the crossroads  
wondering what to do with them.  
He has not had experience enough of  
life to know the power that lies within  
himself and that can only increase as he  
makes use of it. He sees that five talent  
chap at the top of the heap and the  
one talent lad in the 'prison of his  
dejection'. The two talent fellow has  
to make his own decision and feels  
terribly insignificant on that lonely  
plain of mediocrity. All around him he  
hears acclamation of the five talent man

VII

Worse still  
ignoring him  
entirely

And the desire soon leaped upon  
the one talent man. In his struggle  
for a goal in life or just to live the  
two talent man is apt to grow frantic  
and fantastic with his problems.

In giving you this word picture of  
the two talent man it would not be  
of any use to drop it here without  
framing it within the context of what  
power the common man wields. He is  
Ordinary iron, heated on the forge  
of experience and shaped on the anvil  
of time joined with his fellow man  
on the common plains of life, doing his  
best with what he has to hand, asking  
for no notoriety either by riches or poverty.  
Always with due regard to quality rather  
than quantity he holds within himself.  
The talents that are a direct link  
between himself and his God. And as the  
great masses of humanity on this globe, this  
earth under our feet are chiefly of the  
mediocre or common man so the quality

VIII

Partnership  
with GodThe simple  
qualities  
of  
manhood

of the power we possess is the quality of the Power of God. Our talents, our gift from God are a direct connection from God's great Spirit to our common mortality. As we put those talents to use we add to our power and the Power of God. If we refuse their use we in turn lose the gift to someone else. But as two talent people the onus is on us far more than the five or one talent man.

Do not let us be discouraged as we view the long distances of seeming commonplace. Although our gifts may each be different we can still help each other with cheerful word and kindly deed always remembering in our extremities. "There is nothing in our lives which we may be called upon to experience or endure but that when we turn to Jesus we hear him say "I have borne this too."

Prayer. May the words of my lips and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable in thy sight, oh God. Amen.