

**Word notes Sunday 29/11/09 Thea Geach**  
**Talents, Gifts, Growing in Knowing God and Being Fruitful**

**Summary** (read this bit out to remind cell members what was said on Sunday)

Key Text: Matthew 25:14-18, Luke 19:11-21. NB Matt 25:25 & Luke 19:21

In both these stories told by Jesus there were some of those left behind to look after the master's affairs who were afraid of his reaction on return in case they did not perform. Their fear was based in not really knowing their master fully. In both cases they had plenty of time to work out what to do – to practise how to handle their talents or use the money they had stewardship of and so be fruitful but they shirked the responsibility and hoped that simply giving back what they had been given would appease the master.

The Gospels show us a number of instances where Jesus trusts his Disciples with little then a bit more in preparation for when he would be gone. At the same time he gave them space to make mistakes but always hoping they would grow and take steps on their own. (EG Boat stories, Matt 8, Luke 8 & Mark 5 when they were afraid of who Jesus really was and later in Matt 14 & John 21 Peter has grown in knowing Jesus and trusts enough to step out of the boat). This is both an example of good discipleship and how we grow in understanding who Jesus is.

In human terms we can see a child learn to walk and the determination they show. They do fall down and often but still persevere rather than give up the first time they fall.

We are no different when it come to spiritual matters. If we pray for someone to be healed and they are not do we give up? If we share the Gospel with someone and they don't immediately turn to Christ do we close our mouths forever? Or do we trust in the One who saved us, that He will lift us up as we step out of our comfort zone in order that He might use even me?

**Application** (this is the bit where cell members get to participate. Lead discussions around these points)

- a) Read 1 Cor 12:7 & 1 Peter 4:10. To whom does this apply?
- b) Read Matt 10:1-8 and Matt 28:18-20. What are the key differences between these two "commissionings". What does the latter mean for us?
- c) In Mark 9:17-29 we see an occasion when the Disciples "failed". What explanation does Jesus give and what lesson do you think Jesus wanted his disciples to learn?
- d) Given your answers to a & b and the experience of the Disciples in c – what have you learned about fulfilling God's call and how will you act when things get tough, nothing seems to happen or people turn away?

**Witness** (this is the bit where the cell talks and prays about how to share the Good News)

Talk with your Cell about a shared vision to reach out to friends and neighbours or a particular group. Discuss how that might work, who are your neighbours?

Ask if anyone in the Cell is willing to come and prayer walk & deliver invites to the Carol singing – Wed 9<sup>th</sup> December 7:30 at NCC. Let Tony know in advance please.