



Sunday
19-Nov-2023

A very warm welcome is extended to all visitors to St Johns. Morning tea is offered after the service today, so please stay and enjoy.

Entrusted

Scripture reading: Matthew 25:14-30 (New International Version)



The Parable of the Bags of Gold

¹⁴ "Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. ¹⁵ To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. ¹⁶ The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. ¹⁷ So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. ¹⁸ But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

¹⁹ "After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. ²⁰ The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.'

²¹ "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

²² "The man with two bags of gold also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with two bags of gold; see, I have gained two more.'

²³ "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

²⁴ "Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. ²⁵ So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.'

²⁶ "His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So, you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? ²⁷ Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned, I would have received it back with interest.'

²⁸ "So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. ²⁹ For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. ³⁰ And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

Sunday

26-Nov-2023

THIS WEEK

Theme: TBC

From: 19-Nov-2023

Scripture readings: Matthew 25:31-46

To: 26-Nov-2023

Prayer points:

- For peace and restoration of stability in Israel, Ukraine and other regions experiencing unrest;
- For Jane's health;
- For Brenda's health;
- For Felicity's recovery;
- For violence and crime to be subdued in our country.
- For those who have had major surgery and are recovering;
- For support for all those who have lost loved ones, homes and/or livelihoods in the recent natural disasters.

Pastoral Reflection

Hello, friends, who love St Johns,

The first thing that arrested my attention in this week's Gospel reading is the grime remark at the end of the parable.

"²⁹ For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. ³⁰ And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

These are the frightening remark that marks the end of our parable in this week's Gospel reading. The parable clarifies the alternatives. To the one who choose not to sow or scatter and choose instead security over risk, even what they have will be taken away from them. And not only that but also, the prospect of joy and responsibility are gone. On the other hand, those who chose to risk discover a lord who is ready to share the delight of his presence and participation in his happiness.

Another thing that grabbed my attention from the Gospel reading this week is this line.

Sunday 19-Nov-2023

9.30 am Sunday Holy Communion Service in English (Chinese subtitle)
3:30 pm Christian Youth Church

Tuesday 21-Nov-2023

N/A

Wednesday 22-Nov-2023

7:00 pm AA meeting

Thursday 23-Nov-2023

3:10 pm Musiqhub

Friday 24-Nov-2023

10:00 am Knitting Group
6:45 pm Youth Group

Saturday 25-Nov-2023

N/A

Sunday 26-Nov-2023

9.30 am Sunday Service in English (Chinese subtitle)
3:30 pm Christian Youth Church

"²⁵ So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground."

Which echoes Genesis 3. It was in the cool of the day that God came out looking for Adam, and said: **"Where are you?"** and Adam answered **"I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid."** In both instances, what we see is that fear has its own momentum. Fearfulness begets more fear, and overtime fear matures into utter isolation and the separation from the community.

Fear tends to masquerade as wisdom and/or caution but in reality, fear is cynicism and pessimism. Fear is what causes us to experience and see God (and each other) as enemies that should not be trusted or relied on. What would it take for us to trust God, and each other? What would it take for us to begin investing into the relationships that are in front of us?

Phone Book Update

Annual exercise to update the phone book. A copy is placed on the Welcome Desk. **Need your Support**



What you need to do:

1. Please sign next to your name and put "ok" if all details are correct.
2. If update is needed, please cross out outdated info and write down your new contact information next to the old ones.

Deadline
Target to complete the
exercise on 30
November 2023

*Thank
You*



Thanksgiving \$3,456 Collected

as on 16 Nov

Express thankfulness by giving back!

Collection Period: Nov - Dec 2023

Whether you give online or through envelopes, please use the remark **"Thanksgiving."**



This year's Thanksgiving donation will support:

- 90% for general repair and maintenance fund
- 5% for the Breakfast Club
- 5% for a local charity in East Auckland (to be determined)

Bank account: 03-0166-0135407-025 (Bucklands Beach Co-op Parish)

Join us in spreading gratitude and helping those in need!



Breakfast Club Kids is one of two charities that will benefit from our thanksgiving offering this year.



"Our Vision is to assist the Principals in low decile schools to remove any obstacles that restrict the students in fully participating in the school curriculum."

What do they do? Breakfast for students, lunch for students, food bank for social workers in school, stationery for students, shoes for families, appliances for families, clothing, funding for sports camp, buses to events, staff uniforms for sports camp.

How did it start? Breakfast Club Kids started in Randwick Park School, Manurewa, in 2010, helping just eight kids.

By 2023, the assistance from businesses and schools, and the help able to be given to young students has been amazing!

Do take the time to read this heart-warming story at

<https://breakfastclub.org.nz/>

Printed copies are available
from the church administrator

Friday evening Youth Group - 6:45 p.m.



Songs for Today

1. Goodness of God
2. Just as I am
3. The power of your Love
4. This I believe
5. This is my desire

Sunday Services:	English 9:30a.m.	
Office Hours:	Tues - Friday 9:00 am – 12:00 noon	
Phone: 09 534 2305	Email: office@stjohnsbb.org.nz	
Website:	https://stjohnsbb.org.nz	
Minister	Rev Jeff Odhiambo	022 674 0044
Administrator	Winnie Wong	
Property Manager	Charles de Vilder	
People's Warden	Ayleen de Vilder	
Minister's Warden	Julie Dickey	
Pastoral Care	Judy McDonald	
Prayer Chain	Judy McDonald	
Direct Credit Offerings AC	03-0166-0135407-025	

Youth Group: Contact Jeff minister@stjohnsbb.org.nz

	Today's Helpers 19-Nov-2023	Next Week's Helpers 26-Nov-2023
Preacher	Rev Jeff Odhiambo	Rev Jeff Odhiambo
Musician/s	Des Sharp	Joan Williamson Winnie Wong
Projector & Sound Desk	Alicia Odhiambo	Alicia Odhiambo
Reader	Trevor Haigh	Judy McDonald
Intercessor	Mavis Haigh	Bob Williamson
HC set up	Ayleen de Vilder	N/A
HC Serving team	Joan Rutherford	N/A
Prayer ministry	Joan Rutherford	Joan Jones
Sunday School	An opportunity to serve here	An opportunity to serve here
Welcome Desk	An opportunity to serve here	Ayleen de Vilder
Usher	Mavis Haigh	Charles de Vilder
Counters	Trevor Haigh	Charles de Vilder
	Albert Ip	Bob Williamson
Morning Tea	Monita Leung	Miranda Huang
	Jojo Lee	Grace Tay