

“Well done, good and faithful servant!”

We are now approaching the end of our Liturgical Calendar Year. This Sunday's Gospel is a parable which continues on from last Sunday's and has a similar theme.



The Master in the parable goes away and returns after a long time. For Matthew's community it has been a long time since Jesus' resurrection. We think Matthew's Gospel was written in the 80's, fifty years after the Easter events. During that time there has been a Jewish uprising against Rome leading to a Roman assault on Jerusalem and the destruction of the city and its Temple. To many Jews, these events signalled the final days when God would surely come to save them and bring about His Kingdom. Matthew's community, who have come into Christianity through Judaism, would surely share that expectation. But Jesus, the Messiah, has not returned to them. And of course, we are in the same situation. Two thousand years have passed and in that time it is easy to forget Jesus' promise that He will return.

In the parable, the Master's anger is directed at the servant who simply hid what he had received. He had not made use of it, just buried it away and played safe. This servant could be us, the post-modern Christians, who may have lost the sense of urgency about the Gospel message. We received the message but we have just put it aside and got on with our daily lives. Hence, this is the main challenge for all of us to be a good and faithful servant by putting into action the Gospel's message everyday in our life.

May God bless us always! Fr John Paul