

Have you ever made arrangements to meet someone? Time passes, and they've yet to arrive. You check your watch, which is now most likely to also be your phone and you notice a missed call, or several missed calls and perhaps even a disgruntled voicemail asking,

“Where are you? ”

Only to discover, you've been waiting in a different place from the person you're waiting to meet.

Although for now, the 'who' and 'where' regarding meeting is somewhat restricted.

On a global level, our communication and positioning of ourselves has perhaps never been more vital to our physical and economic wellbeing.

At a local level, school rules such as 'Ready, Respectful & Safe' aim to ensure and protect the social, emotional and intellectual wellbeing of the younger generation.

But how is the Spiritual wellbeing of this and subsequent generations looking? Are we as a nation, or even a Church investing well? Or are we burying our assets?

It seems clear to me, that in order for us to navigate this time and space well. Our compassion for and connection with those around us, is crucial. I remain convinced that compassion flows best when we remain connected to our source; Almighty God!

So back to our Scripture. Where Jesus, aware of his own imminent death, likens the Kingdom of heaven to a man going on a journey who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them.

How wealthy are you feeling today?

I suspect the place we find ourselves today, in the 2nd national lockdown this year, isn't a position we expected to find ourselves in, when we joyfully embarked on our journey into 2020.

I also wonder if revival might not to be packaged in quite the way the Church anticipated?...Although we shouldn't be too surprised given the shape God Almighty previously entered the world...

Now without denying or undermining the whole spectrum of emotions the journey thus far has prompted. My prayer today aided by Matthew's gospel and the Holy Spirit, is that together we're all able to see the way ahead, even if for now we remain remote.

Challenges faced, and emotions wrestled with, over this past intense year will I pray, continue to connect us in a supernatural way with the journey and mission of those first disciples and God's unfolding Salvation plan.

Our act of remembrance last week, all be it very different, reminded us of the costly nature of taking up our cross and following.

In acknowledging a parallel between our story and the first disciples we're permitted to see that God was and is positioning and resourcing us all, to be the provision for others during this period of waiting.

Yet I don't mean causal waiting, as mentioned earlier. But rather one which alerts us to the urgency of our responsibility to share with others that which God has shared with us. And warns also of the consequences of hiding even burying all God has invested in you.

Matthew the gospel writer, provides us with a signpost to an intentional, active, productive and to be rewarded, time of waiting. Highlighting how distribution and division of a resource combined with a right attitude, results in a God given multiplication of glory on return.

Perhaps never before has it been so evident that we're living through history. But I wonder if those around you see evidence that your story is
His Story.

An earlier chapter in Mathew's gospel reminds us,

"... A city situated on a hill cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and puts it under a basket, but rather on a lampstand, and it gives light for all who are in the house." (Matthew 5:14-15)

A Light which far from locking down; instead brings liberty and justice.

So please be encouraged, resist the attitude of the one given the "one talent".

Permit this time of separation to spur you on.

As our reading reminds us, the Master gave to each "according to his ability" which suggests to me an intimacy, that God knows the limit of what each of us can handle.

Time perceived as a promise may well prompt an attitude of procrastination, yet the pandemic has proved; time is certainly not a promise but a privilege.

Jesus' original audience, the first disciples, were being prepared and positioned, in ways not dissimilar to us today. Sent out into the world. Here for a finite time. Reminding us that whatever our circumstance, God's inexhaustible love is available to draw on.

Could there therefore, be a better time to make our waiting intentional? ...

I've notice some people have already decorated their homes ready for Christmas. So whilst constant changes and uncertainties, may threaten our the fixed position, and leave us feeling like we're standing on blancmange. We can stand firm in Christ.

And maybe this wasn't the position we expected to find ourselves in, when we embarked on our journey into 2020 months ago. It is however a perfect time to embrace the investment God placed in you.

Meaning that together we can approach the season of Advent with a renewed sense of hope; that God sent Jesus into the world because you and I were seen as one worth investing in. Now that's surely news worth sharing not burying.

Points to ponder...

Read Matthew 25:14-30

How is the Spiritual wellbeing of this and subsequent generations looking?

In what way are we as a nation, and a Church investing well?

In what way are we burying our assets?

See Matthew 5:14-15

In what way is God's light illuminating the path of those around you?

Consider the ways in which we as a local church have been entrusted with much?

Review our assets and discuss ways we can help each other and the wider community to draw on God during these times?

As we approach Advent, how can we ensure our waiting is faithful?

Pray for each other, positioned as we are, to be Kingdom investors.