33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Matthew 25: 14-30
"For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.'

And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.'

He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

Some things to think about...

- What are the different gifts and talents that God has given you?
- In the lead up to Christmas, how could you use your gifts to help those in need? How could you put your gifts together as a Mini Vinnies group this Christmas?

Activity
As a group, write an act of kindness on each coin (see template). Display them in your meeting room. Each day, a member of your Mini Vinnies group can pick an act of kindness and put it into action that day.
(You might choose to do this across Advent.)

Teacher's Notes
This reading shows us that we each have gifts and talents given by God, and that we shouldn't hide them away, but use them to help others.
The thirds servant is an example of how we shouldn't focus on our limitations or be led by fear. God provides us with what we need so we can share it with others.