**3 Small Steps - Faithful in the Small Things**

Luke’s gospel records Jesus’ parables of the unjust steward and the talents. In both, he commends the one who has been faithful with a little. It can be all too easy to think that the smaller the church, the more insignificant, but the truth is we will be judged by our actions and attitudes and not by our size. In these **3 small steps**, we’ll explore how to be faithful, regardless of how much we have.

**Step 1: Steward what God has given YOU.** It is tempting to look at what others have and wish we were in their shoes. “If only we had their congregation.” “If only we had their church hall.” “If only we had their vicar!” This sort of thinking will make us bitter and envious and potentially cause the church to stagnate as we compare ourselves unfavourably to our brothers and sisters elsewhere.

In these parables, each person was called to account for their own actions and not someone else’s. What do YOU have in YOUR hand to manage? Bless God for those who have been faithful stewards over the years, whether PCC, treasurers, churchwardens or other congregants and seek to emulate them.

**Step 2: Reflect on how God sees you.** Before we can steward well, we would do well to receive, enjoy and reflect on God’s generosity towards us and not belittle ourselves.

God’s intention was to take the Children of Israel into Canaan, the Promised Land, flowing with milk and honey. However, when Moses sent men to spy out the land, they returned with a fear-ridden report saying, “We were like grasshoppers in our own sight.” (Numbers 13:33). This negativity permeated the whole camp, resulting in despondency, depression and complaint with dire consequences. Joshua and Caleb were the only ones to give a different report, declaring their trust in a faithful God: “If the Lord delights in us, then He will bring us into this land and give it to us.” (Numbers 14:8). What will your report be like? Will it encourage or depress, cause unity or factions? Make sure you are speaking positively and in faith about our faithful God, with whom all things are possible.

**Step 3: Do *something* with what you have.** The anger of the master toward the servant was because he did nothing with what he had been entrusted. There is no excuse. In practical terms every person with faith can pray, give, serve, praise and share their faith – being generous with what they have freely received.

In terms of giving mechanisms, digital giving is possible everywhere. Every church can have a welcome notice, a QR code and an up to date listing on the CofE A Church Near You website. Other possibilities, which cost nothing, include having a current legacy policy and online giving. The Generous Giving team are available to help you make the most of what you *do* have, not criticise what you don’t. Perhaps the PCC could consider a simple giving review, which celebrates achievements at the same time as finding areas for immediate action and future attention.

Whatever you have been given, do something with it, prove you can be trusted with much more and receive the gratitude of the Master himself!