

## **SPECIAL SERMON:** ***"Living in Light of Christ's Return"***

### **INTRODUCTION**

- **Matthew 25:14-30** addresses the question, How Shall We Live in Light of Christ's Return?  
Three Parables about Readiness:
  1. The Parable of the Drunken Slave (Matthew 24:45-51)
  2. The Parable of the Ten Virgins (Matthew 25:1-13)
  3. The Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25:14-30)

### **THE ASSIGNMENT OF THE MASTER (MATTHEW 25:14-15)**

- The main character in this story is a **master** who is a very wealthy man (v.14 - "his property").
- A **talent** a measurement of weight (approximately 80 pounds). A talent of precious metal would have been worth about 6,000 denarii (1 denarius = average wage of the day laborer).
- He gives to "each according to his ability" (25:15). This speaks to the Master's personal knowledge of his servants.

### **THE ACTIONS OF THE SERVANTS (MATTHEW 25:16-18)**

- A. The **first servant** is an encouraging example of enthusiastic obedience, personal devotion, and energetic industry.
- **"he made five talents more"** (v.16) – he made 100% return because of diligent effort.
- B. The **second servant** is an encouraging example of someone who gets busy serving the Master.
- Possible Temptations of the Second Servant:
- Be **envious** towards the first servant: "Why didn't the Master give me more talents?"
  - Feel **inadequate** compared to the first servant: "If there's a job to do, send the first servant".
  - Be so busy **admiring** the achievements of the first servant that he does not get busy serving the Master.
  - "[he] **made two talents more**" (v.17) - The second servant earns a 100% return on investment.
- C. The **third servant** buries his talent in the ground (v.18): he takes no risks but he does not invest it.

### **THE ASSESSMENT OF THE SERVICE (MATTHEW 25:19-30)**

- A. For the **first two servants** the master's return is a day of rejoicing, a day of celebration!
- **"Well done, good and faithful servant"** (v.21,23) – the second servant receives the same words of affirmation as the first servant even though he was given a lesser amount.

"[the Master] pours out his approval in no grudging or scanty measure, but with warmth and evident delight; His heart glows with pleasure and His commendation is musical with the utterance of His own joy in his servants." (Alexander Maclaren)

- B. The **third servant** blurts out his true feelings about the Master – "Master, I knew you to be a hard man" (v.24).
- The third servant reveals that he does not know the character of the Master. He has no devotion to the Master.
  - The third servant represents an **unbeliever** who has an outward association with the Master. (Matthew 25:30).

# Sermon Application Questions

March 1, 2020

## PERSONAL RESPONSES

1

Jesus tells the story of three servants who were given differing amounts of stewardship by their master. The first servant received five talents, the second received two talents, and the third received one talent (Matthew 25:15).

What were your thoughts about this parable? How did the Lord encourage you spiritually as you heard this message?

2

The second servant in the story ("the two-talent servant") is an encouraging example of faithfulness in service. He could have been prone to be **paralyzed by envy**, **overcome with inadequacy**, or been **too busy admiring the achievements** of the five-talent servant.

Instead, this "two-talent servant" got busy serving the Master with what he had been given.

How did this example encourage you? In what ways can you relate to the servant with two talents?

## DIGGING DEEPER

1

Take some time and reflect on some of the key passages related to this week's sermon. Ask the Lord for help in making application of these truths to your life.

### **Matthew 24:36**

"But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only.

### **Matthew 24:44**

Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

### **Matthew 24:45-51**

"Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom his master has set over his household, to give them their food at the proper time? Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will set him over all his possessions. But if that wicked servant says to himself, 'My master is delayed,' and begins to beat his fellow servants and eats and drinks with drunkards, the master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know and will cut him in pieces and put him with the hypocrites. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

### **Matthew 25:1-13**

"Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a cry, 'Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise answered, saying, 'Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.' And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he answered, 'Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.' Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

**Read Matthew 25:14-30.** Write down some of your own observations about this parable. Ask the Lord to help you apply the truths of this text to your life.

2

Note that this parable demonstrates both the **kindness** and the **severity** of the Master.

In what way does the Master express his **kindness** in this passage?

In what way does the Master express his **severity** in this passage?

## PERSONAL APPLICATION

1

Pastor Dan told the story of a faithful couple at his previous church who were faithful to serve every Sunday over a period of years. He then encouraged the members of Kindred not to “make your service fit your schedule, make your schedule fit your service!”

The Master’s commendation is: “*Well done, good and faithful servant*”. The word “faithful” refers to someone who is dependable, reliable and consistent.

What are some practical ways that you can be more dependable, reliable and consistent in your service to Christ?

2

Pastor Dan taught us that the third servant in the story represents an unbeliever who has an **outward association** with the Master, but has no **inward devotion** to the Master.

In this way, this third servant is much like the disciple Judas who served Christ outwardly yet did not love Christ inwardly.

What were your thoughts about this teaching? Why is the truth of **false profession** so important for us to understand as a church (Matthew 7:21-23, 2 Corinthians 13:5).