

## Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost

### *Sermon Road Map*

November 19, 2023

Peace Ev. Lutheran Church - King of Prussia, PA

Matthew 25:14-30

Rev. Roger W Huffman, Vacancy Pastor

**Live to hear the Lord tell you, *Well done, good and faithful servant!***

- ❖ Here Jesus warns his followers against becoming like this last servant.
  - The third man **didn't** want to be the Lord's servant.
  - Jesus relieved him of this special relationship **forever**.
- ❖ A story of a Christian college student's attitude toward serving:
  - When offered to get involved, she resisted, saying, *We are saved by grace, not by works!*
  - Key truth: Our Lord set us free **from** slavery to sin, **to** serve him.
  - That's our new identity, calling and whole life.

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- ❖ **By grace we live in this Master-Servant relationship.**
  - The special Master-Servant relationship revealed in this parable.
    - ♦ The Greek says, *he called his own slaves and entrusted. . .*
    - ♦ *Slave*: the servants that belong to him. He is their master.
  - The perfect picture for Christ's disciples, servants of the Lord Jesus.
    - ♦ Jesus bought us back from slavery with his lifeblood.
    - ♦ We belong to him. He is our Master. We are his Servants.
  - This Master-Servant relationship is amazing!
    - ♦ He delights to call us his own.
    - ♦ He honors us greatly, entrusting us with his precious things.
    - ♦ He sees to it that our needs are met. Protection - Provisions - Purpose
- ❖ **Jesus' Servants are Stewards of their whole life.**
  - The *talent*: too big to be a coin. A bag of precious metal of great value
    - ♦ It's size and value varied, but it was always great.
    - ♦ One source: equivalent to 19 years wages for a day labor.
  - The English word, *talent*
    - ♦ *a natural faculty, ability or power, or special skill cultivated*
    - ♦ Derived from this parable: *each according to his ability*.
  - These *talents* represent all that God gives each one of us.
    - ♦ Talents, intellect, possessions, relationships, opportunities
    - ♦ Word, Sacraments, & Keys, the call to share the gospel, relationships with fellow believers
    - ♦ Jesus charges his Servants with **whole life stewardship**.
    - ♦ A life lived to hear: *Well done good and faithful servant*.
    - ♦ Do you sense the servant's humility over this undeserved honor?

❖ **Our attitudes and actions reveal who is your Lord and Master.**

- **The attitudes of faith** - displayed the first two servants.
  - ♦ *the one who had received five bags of gold (talents) went out at once ...*
  - ♦ *So also*, the servant entrusted with two bags of gold.
  - ♦ That's the attitude and action of living faith - our new life.
    - *See, I have gained five more.* See is *Behold!* The thrill and excitement to share.
  - ♦ They demonstrate his servant's sheer joy and delight to serve.
  - ♦ That's the life of the *faithful who live by faith*.
  - ♦ *We are saved by grace, through faith alone, not by works. But faith is never without works.*
- **The attitude of unbelief** - the last servant.
  - ♦ *Master, I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. So, I was afraid and went out and hid your talent in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.*
  - ♦ He didn't see his Master as good, kind, gracious.
  - ♦ His relationship was one of **fear**.
  - ♦ We recognize this fear-filled Law motivated *service*.
    - It's what we offer God when our Sinful nature takes charge.
    - Use this parable to **recognize** the *wicked servant* in residence in yourself.
    - **Repent**, turning your mindset to the **reality**: *the Lord is good, not hard and demanding!*
    - **Totally forgiven**, we serve **without fear** - we serve freely with **pure joy**.
- The Master exposes this false servant.
  - ♦ *You wicked lazy servant! Worthless, not connected to the Master. A sponge.*
  - ♦ It is wicked to:
    - call God and his ways **not good**.
    - to use God's possessions to **rebel against him**.
    - This is not just a money matter. It's your body, mind, talents, opportunities, freedoms...
- Servants of the Lord, who delight in serving him, discovered:
  - ♦ here is the **true purpose** and **meaning of life** - what God created you for.
  - ♦ The Lord gives us great liberty and latitude in his service.
  - ♦ Just remember, there's **no part of our life** that we're at liberty **not to serve him**.
  - ♦ Our reward is an eternity of delightful service to the Lord.
  - ♦ That's right! The most glorious title in all the universe - in all eternity is **Servant of the Living God**.

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