

Sunday, November 10, 2023
25 Pentecost, Year A

Matthew 25:14-30

*Jesus tells a parable about his second coming, indicating that it is not sufficient merely to maintain things as they are. Those who await his return should make good use of the gifts that God has provided them. **Praise to you, O Christ***

Jesus said to the disciples: 14“For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; 15to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. 16The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. 17In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. 18But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. 19After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. 20Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’ 21His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ 22And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’ 23His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ 24Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; 25so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ 26But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? 27Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. 28So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. 29For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. 30As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ ”

OPEN

- Who was one of the most talented people you know in school? What happened to that person?
- What were you known for in school - what talents did people recognize in you?

DIG

- In this parable, who does the master represent? The journey? The talents? The Servants?
- What happens to the two servants who doubled their investment? To the servant who hides his talent? On what basis were they rewarded?

- How does the master's treatment of the one talent service seem to you? Fair? Harsh? Lenient? Why?
- Why do you think Jesus thought it necessary to repeat his point so many times and in so many ways (Ch. 23-25)?

REFLECT

- If the Master returned today, what would he say about the way you've used what he gave you? How have you worked at developing it? What kind of responsibility do you feel toward God regarding your talents?
- When, if ever, have you observed that the more you used a talent, the more talents God has given you to prepare for his coming? What can your group do to help you in this regard?