

Sermon

Jesus the Good and Faithful Servant!

Matthew 25:14–30 (NIrV)

¹⁴ Again, here is what the kingdom of heaven will be like. A man was going on a journey. He sent for his servants and put them in charge of his property.

¹⁵ He gave \$10,000 to one. He gave \$4,000 to another. And he gave \$2,000 to the third. The man gave each servant the amount of money he knew the servant could take care of. Then he went on his journey.

¹⁶ The servant who had received the \$10,000 went at once and put his money to work. He earned \$10,000 more.

¹⁷ The one with the \$4,000 earned \$4,000 more.

¹⁸ But the man who had received \$2,000 went and dug a hole in the ground. He hid his master's money in it.

¹⁹ After a long time the master of those servants returned. He wanted to collect all the money they had earned.

²⁰ The man who had received \$10,000 brought the other \$10,000. 'Master,' he said, 'you trusted me with \$10,000. See, I have earned \$10,000 more.'

²¹ His master replied, 'You have done well, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things. I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

²² The man with \$4,000 also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you trusted me with \$4,000. See, I have earned \$4,000 more.'

²³ His master replied, 'You have done well, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things. I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

²⁴ Then the man who had received \$2,000 came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man. You harvest where you have not planted. You gather crops where you have not scattered seed.'

²⁵So I was afraid. I went out and hid your \$2,000 in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.'

²⁶"His master replied, 'You evil, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not planted? You knew that I gather crops where I have not scattered seed?

²⁷Well then, you should have put my money in the bank. When I returned, I would have received it back with interest.'

²⁸"Then his master commanded the other servants, 'Take the \$2,000 from him. Give it to the one who has \$20,000.

²⁹Everyone who has will be given more. He will have more than enough. And what about anyone who doesn't have? Even what he has will be taken away from him.

³⁰Throw that worthless servant outside. There in the darkness, people will sob and grind their teeth.'

What happen in Story

Jesus said, "Kingdom of Heaven same as:
 Man give servants responsible money
 Two servants faithful earn more money
 Master welcome share happiness
 Third servant hide money, earn nothing
 Master throw worthless servant outside
 Darkness people sob, grind their teeth."

Law

WOW tough law - God is our Master
 No matter people want to ignore, everyone will answer to God
 Same as 3rd servant, if we not use God's gifts, - we are same as third
 servant, we are hiding His gifts - we are not faithful - thrown out to
 hell

Gospel

Master give skills, gifts to servants, trust them.
 Master welcome faithful servants home to Heaven
 God wants relationship with Him, work in His Kingdom.

Apply

Story today about faithful life, faithful service to God
 God gives you many gifts and skills, what is your skill?
 Everyone has different skills and gifts.
 Where is God calling you to serve in His work?

Intro

Jesus is explaining the kingdom of heaven in our reading. We often pray "Your kingdom come!" Jesus' kingdom, "The Kingdom of Heaven" is much different than the kingdom of this world. Many times we think Jesus's kingdom is soft and forgiving. We think Jesus only shows kindness and mercy. However, in our reading we see a different understanding of the kingdom of heaven. Our reading shows the kingdom of heaven is harsh (rough) too. We see a master [Jesus] leaving on a journey. Jesus became alive again on the 3rd day. Jesus proved his resurrection power to his disciples and to us. Jesus ascended [go up] in to heaven...that is going on a long journey.

The master in our story leaves same as Jesus on a long journey. The master gives gifts to people. Jesus gives us gifts. Jesus gives us body, mind, house, wife,

children, job, and etc. The master in our reading gives gifts of \$10,000, \$4,000, and \$2,000. One person got \$2,000 digs hole and buries the money. The other 2 people use the money to double the profit; \$20,000 and \$8,000. The master and Jesus both expect [require] a return on their gifts. The gifts are not permanently given. We don't own our wife, children, job, house, car, and etc. The Book of Job says, *"I was born naked. And I'll leave here [earth] naked. You have given, and you have taken away. May your name be praised."* (Job 1:21, NIrV) Job tells us we come into the world with nothing and we leave the world with nothing. We are only having God's gifts for a short time; maybe 70, 80, or maybe 100 years.

The master praises both servants that earn a profit. The master says, "You have done well, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few

things. I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!" However, the servant that buried the money in the ground met the master's anger. "Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man. You harvest where you have not planted. You gather crops where you have not scattered seed. So I was afraid. I went out and hid your \$2,000 in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you."

This is like many people. People use their money, home, wife, children, cars, and things they have for their personal profit, but care little for God's kingdom. How much money do you give to church? How much time to you give to God during the week? Only 1 hour on Sunday? How much of your skills, knowledge, and work do you give God every day? Do you go to Bible Study? Do you give \$5 a week to God? Do you spend more money at the casino for one trip than you give for one

year at church offering? Most important of all, how many people do you tell about Jesus? Many of us never tell anyone about Jesus. Shame! Shame! Shame! Maybe that is why the number 98% of deaf people don't believe in Jesus. I wonder what Jesus will say when he returns to earth? Jesus gives us the example in our reading of the master returning to the man who buried the \$2,000. "His master replied, 'You evil, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not planted? You knew that I gather crops where I have not scattered seed? Well then, you should have put my money in the bank. When I returned, I would have received it back with interest.' Wow! The master is very angry and takes his gift away forever. Do you want God to take away your gifts of life, wife, children, house, job, money, and etc.? Jesus warns! "Everyone who has will be given more. He will have more than

enough. And what about anyone who doesn't have? Even what he has will be taken away from him. Throw that worthless servant outside. There in the darkness, people will sob and grind their teeth." The kingdom of heaven is not just nice. The Kingdom of Heaven is a hard place and much is required of us. We have been given much so much is required of us. Is there any hope for us? Think of the people of 911...are they more sinful than us? No! But we see life is a temporary gift from a Gracious God!

Because Jesus has been faithful and Jesus has done all things right so we are safe in Him, but we should be thankful and do all we can to share His great kindness and love. Jesus will also say to us when we arrive in heaven, "Welcome!" "Come and share your master's happiness!" Jesus does this because of His kindness not because of anything we do. Jesus gives us

His gifts of Word and Sacraments to share so other people may also come to heaven with us. We dare not hide them or keep quiet about them! Amen!