

## **FAITHFUL STEWARDS**

### **Matthew 25:14-30**

#### **I. INTRODUCTION-**

- a. The Lord Jesus often used parables... to illustrate spiritual truth.
- b. This morning...before we observe the Lord's Supper... we are going to examine the parable of Jesus... that we call the "Parable of the Talents."
- c. When we observe the Lord's Supper... it is a good time for followers of Christ to take stock of where we are in our Christian life.
- d. The Lord's Supper is a good time for every Christian to ask of themselves ... "Am I living the Christian life that God would have me to live?"... "Am I living for the Lord as I should?"
- e. "At the Judgment Seat of Christ...what kind of Christian life will I hand in to the Lord who saved me?"
- f. The Lord's Supper is a good time for believers to get back on track for the Lord... and recommit ourselves to His service.
- g. I believe understanding this parable... will help us to do that.

#### **II. UNDERSTANDING THE PARABLE-**

- a. In this parable... Jesus told the story of wealthy man... who before he went on a long journey... entrusted three of his servants... with the management and investment of some his wealth and property.
- b. This man's intention was for each of these servants... to invest and manage his property... in order to turn a profit.
- c. In ancient times... wealthy men often use trusted servants as stewards to help them manage their property... and invest their wealth.

- d. The servants understood that there would be a time... when the master would call on them to give an account of how they had used and invested the resources the master had entrusted to them.
- e. In this parable... when the Day of Judgment came... it was revealed that two of the servants had done well.
- f. These two men had worked hard... and they had earned a very good profit for their master... and they each were generously rewarded by the master.
- g. But the Day of Judgment revealed a much different result... for one of the master's servants.
- h. Instead of working hard and investing what he had been entrusted with for his master's benefit and profit ... one servant had taken what the master had given him... and he had buried it in the ground.
- i. This servant ... did not earn one penny of profit for his master ... he didn't even try.
- j. The Day of Judgment... revealed the true nature and the true character of this servant.
- k. This man was not a faithful servant of his master... he was in reality a wicked and lazy man... he was not interested in working for his master ... he was only interested in living for himself.
- l. To make matters worse... when his Day of Judgment came... this wicked servant had the audacity to disparage the character of his master ... and to blame the master for his own laziness and insolence.
- m. In verse 24... on the Day of Judgment the wicked servant gave this excuse for not working for the master ... "Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed."

- n. But the rest of the parable... reveals that this was not the nature and character of the master at all.
- o. The master in this parable... was in reality a fair, honorable, just, honest, gracious and generous man...he not the hard, ugly, ogre that the wicked servant claimed that he was.
- p. On the Day of Judgment... the master saw right through the excuses of this wicked servant.
- q. The Day of Judgment... revealed that this was a wicked, selfish, self-centered, lazy man.
- r. This man did not really know the master at all... he did not love the master... he did not respect the master... and he did not appreciate the master... in fact... this man secretly hated the master.
- s. And instead of being rewarded by the master as the other two servants were ... this man lost everything he had ... and he was cast into the *“outer darkness where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth.”*

### **III. THE MEANING OF THE PARABLE-**

- a. I believe understanding the meaning of this parable... will help us to make some commitments and recommitments... that we need to make before we observe the Lord’s Supper.
- b. #1, The wealthy man in this parable is God... specifically He is ... the Lord Jesus Christ.
- c. Whether a person is saved or not... the source of all blessings and good things in life... is the Lord Jesus Christ... He is the wealthy man who gives us everything good.
- d. #2, After His resurrection... Jesus traveled into the far country of Heaven... Jesus is not physically present in this world as He was during His earthly life.

- e. But one day... Jesus is coming again... He will physically and bodily return to this earth... and a Day of Judgment is coming for every person.
- f. One day every person... the lost and the saved... will stand before the Lord Jesus and give an account to Him for how we lived the life that He gave us.
- g. The lost will be judged for their rejection of Christ... the saved will be judged for how they lived for the Lord after they were saved.
- h. The lost will be judged before they enter into hell... the saved will be judged before they enter into the New Heaven and New Earth... where the saved will live with God forever.
- i. #3, The two faithful servants in this parable... represent true believers.
- j. Do you understand what God invested in your life... when He saved you?
- k. When God saved you... He invested the precious blood of Christ into your life ... by which you were saved.
- l. One molecule of the blood that Jesus shed for us... as He bore our sins upon the cross... is more valuable than all of the gold... all of the silver... all of the precious treasures of the earth and the universe ... all combined... a billion times over.
- m. And when God saved us ... He took the precious blood of Jesus and applied it our life... and He invested that blood into our life.
- n. When God saved us... He invested the Holy Spirit ... His divine presence into our life.
- o. When God saved us... He invested the Word of God into our life... and He gave us unique talents, abilities and opportunities to serve Him.

- p. Ephesians 1:3 says that when God saved us ... He invested a multitude of spiritual blessings into our life... He promised His presence in this world... and a home in Heaven.
- q. After investing all that He invested into our life when He saved us... do you think that we are not accountable to God... for how we use what He has given to us for His honor and glory?
- r. If you are saved... one day God will call you to give an account for how you lived for Him after you were saved... how you used all that He invested in your life... for His honor, glory and kingdom.
- s. If you are a Christian... the greatest issue in your life is not how much money are you have... how much land you own... how important you are in this world... or anything like that.
- t. If you are a Christian...the greatest issue in your life is how are you living your life for the Lord... how are you using what He has invested in your life for His honor and glory.
- u. The fact that in this parable one man was given 5 talents while the other servant was given 2 talents... illustrates that while believers are the same in salvation and we are the same in our worth and value before God... we are all different in the talents, gifts, abilities and opportunities that God gives us to serve Him.
- v. While every believer is equally saved... equally loved... and equally valued by God... and we will equally enjoy the same Heaven...when it comes to talents, gifts, abilities and opportunities for serving God ... believers are not equal... some believers have been given more than others.
- w. Not every believer is a Billy Graham... but God will not judge every believer according to the standard He used for Billy Graham.

- x. Every believer will be judged according to how faithful we were... in using and employing the unique gifts, talents and opportunities God gave to us for His honor and glory.
- y. Notice that though these two servants had different gifts, abilities and opportunities ... they both received the same reward from God ...  
*“Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.”*
- z. Though none of us have the same talents, gifts, abilities and opportunities as Billy Graham... if you are just as faithful in serving the Lord as he was... you will receive the same rewards in Heaven as Billy Graham.
- aa. #4, The wicked servant in this parable... represents an unbeliever who refused to receive... the precious treasure of the gospel and the saving grace of Jesus Christ in their life.
- bb. Instead of receiving the gospel... believing the gospel... and giving his life to Christ ... the wicked servant buried the gospel under a wicked, selfish and sinful life.
- cc. Instead of loving God ... the wicked servant disparaged, disrespected and rejected God ... and in his heart... he hated God.
- dd. What is true of this wicked servant... is true of every person who rejects Christ.
- ee. The lost... those who reject Christ will also be judged.
- ff. I know it is not popular these days... in the church... and outside the church... to believe in hell.
- gg. But the greatest hellfire and brimstone preacher who ever lived was the Lord Jesus Christ... who while He was on the cross... literally experienced an eternity worth of hell for every one of us.

- hh. Jesus closed this parable by saying that everyone who rejects Him ... will be “cast into the outer darkness where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth”... Jesus is talking about hell.
- ii. God desires to forgive... God desires that none perish but that all come to repentance... Jesus died on the cross to save all people from the hell we deserve because of our sins... but God will not and cannot save those who harden their hearts and refuse to accept His gift of forgiveness and grace through the Lord Jesus Christ.
- jj. Yes... hell is real... and it is the eternal destination for all who refuse to repent of their sins and accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.
- kk.#5, Heaven is not a reward... Heaven cannot be earned or deserved... Heaven is a gift that God gives to those who trust in Christ.
- ll. But this parable is just one place where the Bible teaches that believers will be given rewards in Heaven...in Heaven God will give believers rewards based on how they lived for Him after they were saved.
- mm. If you claim to be a Christian and you are satisfied in just being saved... if you are satisfied with just having your name on the roll... and you have no desire and no drive to live for Christ and serve Him ... you would be wise to check yourself to see if you truly are saved... if you truly are a follower of Jesus Christ.
- nn. There is no such thing as a born-again... Holy Spirit indwelt believer in Christ ... who has no desire to advance in the Christian life and no desire to live for Christ.

#### **IV. APPLYING THE PARABLE-**

- a. So... how do we apply this parable to us today?

- b. Christian take stock of your life... after all that God has invested in your life... after all of the blessings that He has given to you... what kind of life are you living for Him?
- c. We do not keep our salvation by living the committed Christian life ... our salvation is kept by God... but one day every Christian will stand before the Lord who suffered and died for us on Calvary... what kind of life will you hand in to Him?
- d. You can't be perfect ... but you can be committed... you can be consistent... you can be excellent in Christian living.
- e. On the Day of Judgment... to quote the Bible... some Christians will enter Heaven so as by fire... they will be saved by the skin of their teeth... having a saved soul ... but after they were saved... living a wasted and empty life for the Lord.
- f. Some of the tears that the Lord will wipe away in Heaven will be tears of regret... shed by Christians who failed to give their best for Christ ... God will comfort them... He will give them grace... He will forever wipe away their regret and tears... they will have joy in Heaven ... but they will lose rewards in Heaven they could have had.
- g. On the day when the Lord judges our Christian life... the greatest reward any Christian can receive... is to hear our Lord say... *Matthew 25:21 (NKJV) His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'*
- h. So today as we receive to Lord's Supper... as we receive the bread and juice which represents the life Jesus sacrificed to save us... let us recommit ourselves to living for the Lord like we have never done before.
- i. If you are lost... today is a gift of grace... it is another opportunity that God gives you to be saved... will you reject the gospel again? ... will you bury the gospel and God's love... under a selfish life of sin?

- j. There is a judgment day coming... the most horrible words anyone will ever hear are the words of Jesus in Matthew 25:30... “*Cast this unbelieving one into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.*”... eternal punishment and eternal regret.

## V. CONCLUSION-

- a. What will you do today?