

19 November 2017 – 24th Sunday after Pentecost.

Readings: Zephaniah 1:7, 12–18; Psalm 90:1–12; 1 Thessalonians 5:1–11; Matthew 25:14–30.

Theme: “*Kingdom of heaven*” – **Matthew 25:1**, “**The kingdom of heaven** will be like...” **Acts 1:3**, “He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about **the kingdom of God.**”



I. ALL EMBRACING AND TOTALLY GIVING.

A. We don't get what we deserve: Punishment (Mercy).

1 John 4:14-16, 18, “We have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love... There is no fear in love, but **perfect love casts out fear.**”

B. We get what we don't deserve: Gifts (Grace).

Matthew 25:14-15, “For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and **entrusted to them his property**. To one **he gave** five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability.” **Cf. Romans 6:23**, “the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Ephesians 2:8; 4:8, “By grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is **the gift of God**... When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave **gifts** to men.”

John 3:3, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see **the kingdom of God.**”

Bill Shorten, “You are 100% loved.”



68 kilometers per second

II. EVERCHANGING AND OUTWARD REACHING.

Matthew 25:16-17, “He who had received the five talents went at once and **traded with them**, and he made five talents **more**. **So also** he who had the two talents made two talents **more.**”

Romans 12:6, “**Having gifts** that differ according to the grace given to us, **let us use them.**” **1 Thessalonians 4:1, 10; 5:23**, “Brothers and sisters, we instructed you how to live in order to please God, as in fact you are living. Now we ask you and urge you in the Lord Jesus to do this **more and more**... And in fact, you do love all of God’s family throughout Macedonia. Yet we urge you, brothers and sisters, to do so **more and more**... **Now** may the God of peace himself **sanctify you completely**, and may your whole **spirit and soul and body** be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

1 Corinthians 6:9-11, “Unjust people who don’t care about God will not be joining in his kingdom. Those who use and abuse each other, use and abuse sex, use and abuse the earth and everything in it, don’t qualify as citizens in God’s kingdom. A number of you know from experience what I’m talking about, for not so long ago **you were on that list**. Since then, you’ve been cleaned up and given a fresh start by Jesus, our Master, our Messiah, and by our God present in us, the Spirit.” **John 8:11**, “Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more.”



III. WHOLLY TRUSTING.

Matthew 28:18-19, “**All authority** in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and **make disciples** of all nations...”

WARNING: Zephaniah 1:12, “I will punish the men who are **complacent** (NASB: *stagnant in spirit*; AOD: *smugly self-satisfied; calmly content*)...”

Matthew 25:18, “He who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money.”

Matthew 18:1-4, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them and said, “Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.”

CONCLUSION: “Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.” It’s not how much we’re given, but how thankful we are for what we have, and faithful in sharing it with others ☺