



# **Volunteer Dinner**

**Well done!**

**Matthew 25:14-23**

**Devotional given on December 16, 2017**



**Annual Volunteer Dinner**

**Pastor Rick Lancaster**

## Well done!

### **Matthew 25:14-23**

#### Opening Comments

- Thank you all for being here
- In Matthew 24, Jesus described what the world would be like before He returns to set up His kingdom
- He concludes that chapter by describing the faithful and wise servant
- And then in chapter 25 there are two parables about how we should live as we wait for that glorious day to come
- The first one – the wise and foolish virgins – reminds us to always be prepared for His coming
- I would like to take just a few minutes and look at the second parable – The parable of the talents
- You're here because you have responded to God's call to serve Him by serving the church
- God gave you gifts
- You are here, we are all here, because we are using the gifts, or talents, God has given us **1 Corinthians 12:11**

**But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.**

- And doing it for His glory, for the blessing of others, and to see faith grow
- If you recall last Sunday's message, Jesus reminded us that just because He has been gone a long time, it doesn't mean He couldn't come back immediately **Luke 12:35-37a**

**Let your waist be girded and your lamps burning; <sup>36</sup> and you yourselves be like men who wait for their master, when he will return from the wedding, that when he comes and knocks they may open to him immediately. <sup>37</sup> Blessed are those servants whom the master, when he comes, will find watching.**

- In the Parable of the Talents, Jesus speaks to those who would serve Him
- **Matthew 25:14**
- Jesus is the 'man' in this parable
- The 'far country' is heaven where He currently stands at the right hand of the Father

- The ‘his goods’ are the church, both the organization and all its property, as well as, the people of the church
- They all belong to Jesus, but He has entrusted them into the hands of His servants to tend while He is away
- **Matthew 25:15**
- All men and women are equal in God’s eyes, but He did not create us all the same
- Each of are different, we have different natural abilities, and strengths, and experiences
- God entrusts parts of ‘his goods’ to each us based on how He made us – based on the ability He put into us
- Jesus went back to heaven and left His church in the hands of His servants
- And for almost two thousand years men and women like you have, in faith, answered the call to b responsible for some of ‘his goods’ – the church
- Whatever role you play in the church – God gave you ability and then called you to serve Him
- The parable describes three servants and what they did after the Master left
- **Matthew 25:16-17**
- This parable is about money, but contains a spiritual truth that is not always easy to see
- These servants invested what was entrusted to them and realized a tangible return on their investment
- Where we might struggle is not being able to see a tangible return for our service
- We are investing the things God has entrusted to us, and getting mostly intangible returns – returns that cannot be measured so clearly – things like faith, repentance, forgiveness, reconciliation, and spiritual growth are not easy to measure
- That can make serving God hard, because our flesh sometimes gets tired and we might even begin to wonder if it is worth it
- The parable describes what the servants can expect when the Master returns

- **Matthew 25:19**
- Jesus has been gone a long time, but He is coming back, maybe soon!
- **Matthew 25:20-23**
- You should note that the response of the Master was the same for the two-talent servant as it was for the five-talent servant
- Which should teach us that the ‘amount of results’ is not how Jesus will reward His servants
- The key is in the phrase, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant.’
- Two characteristics of our service will determine our reward – Good and faithful
- To be a good servant – be good and do good
- God is working in you to make you like Christ – continue letting Him do it
- God made you for good works – walk in them – discover what He made you to do – then do it
- To be a faithful servant – continue growing in faith – get to know God more and more and obey Him
- Jesus is coming back soon! I know that someday I am going to be standing before Him and He is going to settle accounts with me
- I long deep within my soul to hear the words, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant.’
- You’re here because you love God and show it by loving His people
- I believe I can speak for the Board when I say thank you – we are blessed to be serving alongside you
- Our Lord Jesus is still away in His ‘far country’
- While we wait, let’s keep loving God by loving His people
- And then someday we will all hear those precious words, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant.’
- God bless you all and thank you.
- Let’s pray