



First United Methodist Church of Hanford

Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.



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“God has given us blessings to steward”

“Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom the master has put in charge of the servants in his household to give them their food at the proper time? It will be good for that servant whose master finds him doing so when he returns. Truly I tell you, he will put him in charge of all his possessions. But suppose that servant is wicked and says to himself, ‘My master is staying away a long time,’ and he then begins to beat his fellow servants and to eat and drink with drunkards. The master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he is not aware of. He will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the hypocrites, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Matthew 24:45-51

As we read the passage from Matthew’s Gospel about wise and faithful servants, or as unwise and unfaithful servants as the case might be, we get a picture of how we might understand what Jesus would have us to do in living a kingdom-life, in being open to God.

In Jesus’ parable today, we learn what it means to take care of what the Master has provided, We learn how a faithful and wise servant is one who, when placed in charge of the household, knows how to care for it when the Master leaves.

Jesus’ parable here is not simply about what happens when the master leaves; and it is not simply about good and bad servants, though it is about that too. It is really about Jesus preparing his disciples for the time when he leaves. How are they going to act when he is away (Matthew 28:16-20)? Will they continue his work? Or will they just pretend to do it? Jesus has given them the kingdom of God; he has taught it to them and shared it with them: will they take care of it by blessing those around them, or will they squander it by keeping it all to themselves?

The wise and faithful steward or servant, according to Jesus, is the one who ultimately respects and honors God, while the unfaithful and unwise steward forgets God. The wise and faithful steward is honest and respectable; the unwise and unfaithful steward is dishonest and unteachable. How can Jesus make it simpler?

When it comes to saints, servants, and stewards – Jesus expects us to live honest and faithful lives. No pretending. No faking. No hypocrisy. Just doing what the Master wants us to do, day in and day out. Because, as Jesus knows, there will be times when we will fail. We will not always get it right. I do not. You do not. We all do not. Like Peter, who denied Jesus three times, we all fall short, we all make mistakes. But like all sinners of God's own redeeming, we can receive what God has ready for us: there is always on offer God's grace. There is forgiveness.

Not to take advantage of by any means: we are not to use God's grace as an excuse for slacking our responsibilities to God or those who are hurting (cf., Matthew 25:31-45).

Rather, we are to remember that to whom God gives much God expects much – even when we think no one is watching! We are to remember what Christ has done for us and what we can do for others. That is what the lives of the saints beckon us to recall – that God has given us blessings to steward, to take care of the Master's household, remembering that the difference between wisdom and folly, faithfulness and disobedience, is whether, in the breaking of bread, we then give that bread to others, and so share in the life of the kingdom of heaven. Amen

Now I can say I Live a Day" (John Wesley)

Pastor Pablo

May 5th, 2021

Online Devotionals

To grow in your relationship with God and others, it is important to have some spiritual disciplines in your life. Below are some helpful websites that will lead you to read scripture, pray, and focus on God.

[UPPER ROOM DAILY DEVOTIONAL](https://www.upperroom.org/devotionals) <https://www.upperroom.org/devotionals>

A daily devotional including scripture lesson and story.

[UPPER ROOM DAILY REFLECTIONS](https://upperroombooks.com/neweverymorning/) <https://upperroombooks.com/neweverymorning/>