

share, the love of God, the hope of life lived to the full, the joy of healing; physical, mental, spiritual. Go because those people are precious to God and his heart longs to embrace them in his grace and mercy.

Let us pray.

Jesus send the Holy Spirit to each of us this week giving us the name a person you want us to share you with and a person you want us to encourage and grow in their faith. And also give us the courage to step out and act when you give us those names. Amen.

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## **Christ Church Lutheran**

Worship Times - 9.00am & 10.45am

Pastor: Tim 0427326553

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Reaching Out with the Love of Jesus that All my Know, Worship & Grow in Christ



6 November 2008

## **Parable of the Talents.**

Matthew 25:14-30



The first thing this parable brings out for me is the idea of ownership. What do you own; house, car, TV, money in the bank. What do you own? That's an important question in life, one that makes good income for lawyers.

When you buy a house one bill you'll pay is about proving who owns the property. You can't sell what you don't own, and you can't buy it either. If I buy a stolen item and the owner can prove it is theirs, even if I've acted with the best of intent, what happens? The item is returned to its rightful owner and unless I can find the person who sold it to me I'm out of pocket. Ownership is important.

In this parable about talents who owns what?

This is important because I've often heard the argument; it's my body and I'll do with it as I

want. In this parable who owns what?

There is only one owner mentioned and that is who? It is the Master. What does the master own? The bags of gold he gives out, and the people he gives the talents to. These are not employees, but they are slaves. The Master owns the talents which he entrusts to the slaves he owns. How much does the Master own? Everything!

Have you ever thought; it's my money and I'll do with it as I like? If you have, now is a good time to repent. As a Christian what do you own?

Paul writing to the Church at Corinth reminded them; "You are not your own, you were brought at a price. Therefore honour God with your bodies." (1 Cor. 6:19,20) People where having sex with whoever they liked and where justifying their

actions by saying their bodies didn't matter to God so they could do what they like with them. It's my body and I'll do what I like, is a very old slogan the Devil likes to deceive people with.

But as far as I'm aware God created everything and he still lays claim to it. That's what we confess every time we read the creed. 'I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth'. That's you and I reminding ourselves that God is the legal owner of everything, and we aren't.

As Christians we go further because we also confess; 'I believe in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord - Master.' We confess that Jesus has purchased use with his life. We belong to him. He is our Master, our owner. Which is a wonderful, joyful confession. If Jesus doesn't own me the devil

comes in and takes control, claiming possession! I don't have any desire of being illegally possessed by the devil!

I can't just take what God has entrusted to me and do whatever I like with it. I don't own it. I can't come into your home and take whatever I like and use it as I please. I think we call that theft? And it doesn't go down well.

That's what idolatry is; taking what belongs to God and using it for ourselves. We steal what doesn't legally belong to us to do with it as we like, for our own pleasure. That's idolatry, and it doesn't go down at all well with God.

This concept is to shape our view of life. I have been entrusted by God with his good gifts, to do his will, in order to bring him glory, honour and praise. Or in other words, to give God a good reputation as I use his resources to achieve his goal.

It's not just what I can do which is a gift from God; I am a gift of God. A gift of God brought with Jesus' blood that I might live for the Father, to his honour, glory and praise. This is to be our world view.

In the parable the Master entrusted his slaves with valuable resources. What a risk, trusting slaves with

### What do you own?

his valuable possessions. In Jesus God is trusting you with his most precious possession. In Jesus God entrusts us with his life. What are we doing with it?

The Pharisees crucified Jesus because he was a threat to their temple and their nation. They crucified Jesus so that they wouldn't lose their possessions.

Under the guise of doing it in God's name they were practicing Idolatry, taking what belonged to God and using it to

further their own aims. They ended up building their own kingdom – which only a few years after Jesus death was totally destroyed. And the temple in Jerusalem has never been rebuilt!

God has entrusted each of us with many precious talents, but the most precious talent he has given each of us is his life

in Jesus. What are we doing with it? Do we bury Jesus by claiming; its my life and I'll do as I like, they're my

possessions and I worked hard for them, you can't tell me what to do with what I own.

In Jesus God has risked entrusting us with his life, with his heart, with his love for us. What are we doing with this love of Jesus we've been entrusted with? How are we using this talent entrusted to us to grow our masters wealth and expand his kingdom.

The first two slaves got to work at once and doubled their masters talent that was entrusted to them.

By the way, how much profit did they make for themselves? If there's nothing in it for you would you act or not waste your time? Whose time is it?

The first two slaves got to work and doubled what was entrusted to them. Now when it comes to money that's an easy concept; I've given you \$5000 and you give me back \$10,000. But how do you double the gift of Jesus' life? How do we grow the Father's wealth and expand his kingdom?

What can I do to faithfully use the gift of Jesus' life, entrusted to me, to grow the Father's kingdom? What concrete, down-to-earth actions can I be doing to grow the Father's kingdom?

The Father's kingdom grows how? When people come to faith, trusting in Jesus' legal claim on them, seeking to live under his rule as king, trusting in his power to deliver what he says, trusting in his selfless love for those in his kingdom, trusting that

through Jesus we have become not just citizens of the Kingdom of Heaven, but legally adopted children of the Father. We're in the royal family, and are now growing in taking on our Father's characteristics.

The Father's kingdom, our Father's kingdom grows through child birth and growing those

### How do you double Jesus' life?

children to adult maturity, maturity in the image of Jesus.

People are born into the Father's kingdom through Baptism and then are looked after and nurtured by their older brother's and sisters. They are grown and nurtured to love as they are loved by their Father through the Son.

What concrete, down-to-earth action can we begin with this week that we might not be burying Jesus but doubling the gift entrusted to us?

I'd start with prayer. Daily asking the Father to lead you to a person that you might share with them the wonderful gift you've been entrusted with. Ask believing and then when that prompting comes into your head, go believing that the Holy Spirit will give you the words to speak and the actions to do so that you en flesh the love of God for that person in Jesus.

Go expecting no kick-back, but freely give of yourself.

Also ask the Father who of his children need your help this week. Who needs building up or a helping hand? Who can you help nurture and grow in their faith this week? As you feel lead by the Spirit, go and give of yourself that the other person may benefit.

Go expecting and taking on kick-back, but joyfully serve the other out of love and trust in Jesus.

Don't go because you feel guilty, go because you can, because you have something wonderful to