

## Dear Families:

Today we read the part of Matthew's Gospel that talked about one of Jesus' many parables. Jesus tells of a master that was about to leave on a long journey. Before he departed, he called three of his trusted servants to him. He gave his most trusted servant 5 talents, another trusted servant 2 talents, and the third servant 1 talent for safekeeping. Upon the master's delayed return, he immediately called his servants to him and asked about his money. The first servant had invested the 5 coins while the master was away, and doubled his money. The master was pleased! The second servant had also invested what the master had given him, and returned 4 coins instead of 2. Again, the master was happy. The third servant promptly returned the master's one coin. He explained that since he was afraid of the master (since the master had a reputation of being a hard man- reaping that which he did not sow), he did not want to get in trouble for losing the coin. So he buried it in the ground for safekeeping.

The master grew very angry with this servant. He yelled, "if you knew I was a hard master, you know I would not be happy with just playing it safe. You need to use what I give you to do more. You could have at least put it in the bank and earned interest!" He then took the coin from the servant and gave it to the one with 10. Then the master instructed the slothful servant to be cast out, where there would be sorrow and pain.

This is a harsh lesson- one that doesn't sit well with many people. However, God is a demanding master. If we are truly his servants, we will not be too lazy to use the gifts with which He has blessed us. The servant fell victim to two of the sins despised most by God: sloth and fear. God did not give us precious gifts so that we can sit with them and do nothing. He wants us out and busy- using those gifts as He wishes to do His work here on Earth. Don't be idle and don't be afraid- God will use you for His goodness as long as we get up and get going!

We also continued preparations for our Christmas play. Our performance will be during morning worship on Christmas Eve- Sunday, December 24. We hope you can join us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus!

Also, stay tuned for our Advent Challenges! They make their return next Sunday, November 26.

Carol McClellan, CE Director