

As a Faithful Christian. . . .

➤ Intro:

- **encourage you:** salvation, remain faithful,
- **6 lessons we take from the parable of the talents** to help us press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ

➤ (vs. 14) You answered God's call.

- **vs. 14a parable:** master called his slaves, they answered the call
- **2 Th. 2:14** we are **called by the gospel** – you answered
- **Matt. 16:24-26** your **commitment** in answering the call: **deny self, take up cross, follow Jesus**
 - **illus.:** - **Matt. 4:18-22** apostles dropped everything, left family and friends and jobs, followed Jesus

➤ (vs. 14) God entrusts you with His possessions (“talents” / blessings).

- **vs. 14b parable:** master entrusted his possessions
- **Eph. 4:7** **grace** (*charis*) **given** according to the measure of Christ's **gift**
 - **Jesus (God) bestows gifts on us to serve in His kingdom (Eph. 4:16)**
- **2 Cor. 9:8-11** God **gives us material blessings to use** in our service to Him
- **1 Tim. 6:17-19** God **gives us all things** – enjoy, rich in good works, share, laying up foundation in heaven
- **God entrusts us with the things that are His, to be good stewards and use, working in His kingdom (vineyard)** – **daily necessities, jobs to earn \$, health to do His work, resources to help others**

➤ (vs. 15) God gives you “talents” according to your ability.

- **vs. 15 parable:** master gave to them according to their ability
- **1 Cor. 10:13** God doesn't give you more than you can handle, be tempted above what can bear
- **application:**
 - we **have the ability** to deal properly with what we have – if we want
 - sometimes things can **difficult to manage if we are using too many material blessings for personal enjoyment** rather than doing good in the kingdom
- **warning:**
 - **Lk. 12:48** more given, more required – **us in the world today** – **judgment for use of time, \$, energy**

➤ (vs. 16-17) You are working hard in God's kingdom.

- **vs. 16-17 parable:** “immediately” faithful slaves began to work, wicked slave was lazy and didn't do minimum
 - **illus.:** song #396: “We'll Work Till Jesus Comes”
- **Jn. 15:1-2, 5, 8-11** we are **branches, God prunes, bear fruit** throughout life
 - **God glorified, love, obey, joy full (vs. 11) — doing work of Lord**
- **1 Cor. 12:14-27; Eph. 4:7, 16** **everyone** needed, interdependent, equally important, result is growth of body

➤ (vs. 19) **You will be judged as God's child.**

- vs. **19 parable:** gave account, glad to do it because you've been faithful
 - **illus.:** student, term paper, perfect, glad to hand it in and get grade
- **1 Pet. 4:17 judgment begins with house of God** (group you want to be in), not want to be in next group
 - rf. **2 Cor. 5:10; Heb. 9:27**
- **1 Cor. 6:2a, 3a** faithful Christian will judge world and angels – **what's that going to be like**
- **application:**
 - **2 Cor. 13:5a** Test yourselves to see if you are **in the faith; examine yourselves!**
 - **Jn. 12:48** judged by Christ's word – **judge yourself, what would God say about you if you were judged today**

➤ (vs. 20-23) **You will receive a home in heaven.**

- vs. **21, 23 parable:** rewarded with eternal home in heaven
- **application:**
 - **all who are faithful**, working to their ability, receive **same reward – heaven**
 - **Matt. 20:1-16** parable of the land owner, paid same wages at end of day, those who worked longer upset
 - **Matt. 20:15** owner's reply to those who complained
 - **Matt. 20:16** lesson Jesus taught
 - **attitude toward our reward, toward God, toward one another**
- **reminder of reward:**
 - **Rev. 21:1-7; 22:1-5** heaven

Summary / Inv.

- **review:** PP slide
- **exhortation:** be a faithful Christian, serving God the best you can every day
 - **1 Jn. 4:17** love casts out all fear, judgment – 1 Jn. 5:3 love is commitment to faithfully serve to best of ability
 - **Phil. 3:20-21** eagerly wait for Jesus, living to serve Him everyday, looking for His return, anticipating your future glory with Him
- - **inv.:** everyone can leave as a Christian, with all these blessings. . . .
 - song #653, "When Jesus Comes"
 - song, "Where The Soul Never Dies" – I'm on my way to Canaan land