The Word @ Home

Pentecost 25
Gospel Reading: Matthew 25:14-30

The Point

We have been given gifts and talents to use for God's glory.

Key Verse

His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master."
– Matthew 25:21

Scripture Summaries

Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30

The Parable of the Bags of Money

Today we have another parable in which a rich man entrusts his servants with responsibility—in this case, bags of gold. To the first servant he gives five bags; to the next, two; and to the third, one bag. The first two servants use the man's money wisely and increase his wealth, but the third servant is fearful and buries the money. While the first two servants are commended for being wise, the third is reprimanded. This parable is a lesson in responsibly taking care of that which God has entrusted to us.

First Reading: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

This Old Testament text continues warnings of complacency before the Lord's return. Zephaniah predicts a violent and sudden end to those who do not believe at the final days.

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Paul reminds the Thessalonians that no one will know when Jesus will return, but to remain steadfast and prepared while they wait. Encourage one another, build each other up, and wait with diligence for the Lord's return.

Seasons & Festivals

Today is the 25th Sunday after Pentecost. Green is used to indicate our growth in faith, and this season after Pentecost is a time in which we focus on Jesus' teachings and ministry. Today's text challenges us to grow our faith, gifts, and talents to further God's kingdom.

Discussion Starters

- What do you think of as gifts or talents that God has given you?
- How can you use these gifts to further the kingdom of God?
- Pay attention to your family members and friends this week. When you see them using a gift or talent that is unique to them, point it out.

© 2020-2026 Spirit & Truth Publishing—All Rights Reserved

Prayer of the Week

Jesus, help us to use our gifts and talents for you. Amen.

Daily Bible Readings

As you hear and study these stories each week, consider what God has to say to you. What is God's message to us? How should we respond?

Sunday	**Read Matthew 25:14-30** Jesus tells a parable about bags of money. Give each person a handful of coins. For each coin, try to name one gift that they have.
Monday	**Read Romans 2:1-11** God's judgment is righteous. Think silently of a time that you have judged someone else. Pray for forgiveness.
Tuesday	**Read 1 Thessalonians 5:12-18** Paul gives final instructions to the Thessalonians. Talk about ways that you can "pray without ceasing."
Wednesday	**Read Matthew 24:45-51** The faithful and wise servant is given responsibility. Talk about your household responsibilities. What would happen if you did not do them?
Thursday	**Read Genesis 48:15-22** Israel blesses Joseph's sons. Talk about blessings that God has given your extended family, however many people you would like to include.
Friday	**Read Psalm 95:1-7** Sing praise to God. Write a psalm expressing your praise to God.
Saturday	**Read Matthew 12:46-50** Jesus talks about his mother and brothers. Jesus' description of his family is larger than just his mother and brothers. Who else would you consider your family?

Blessing for the Week

Share this blessing while tracing a cross on each person's forehead or hand with their permission:
Find the boldness to use your gifts. Amen.

© 2020-2026 Spirit & Truth Publishing—All Rights Reserved