**“Serving Jesus ‘til He Returns”  Part 2**

**(Matthew 25:14-30)**

**Today’s scripture text bears similarities to the parable of the pounds in Luke 19, but it is an altogether different parable.  It occurs within Christ’s teaching on His Second Coming shortly before He goes to the cross. It is one of several parables He strings together in this section.  This text calls us to continue in diligent service as we consider its themes of…**

**Responsibility  (14-18)**

**Responsibility Entrusted  (14-15)**

**Responsibility Exercised (16-18)**

**Reward  (19-23)**

**Basis for Reward  (19-20, 22)**

**Nature of Reward  (21, 23)**

**Retribution (24-30)**

**Reason for Retribution  (24-27)**

**Result of Retribution  (28-30)**

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**Small Group Discussion Guide**

**1. Share something from Sunday’s sermon that was the most**

 **interesting or challenging to you, or that raised a question.**

**2. Why were the servants given different amounts of talents? What**

 **do you think the talents represent in our lives? What has God**

 **entrusted to our care that He wants us to utilize and expand for**

 **Him?**

**3. What does the phrase “Enter thou into the joy of the Lord” mean**

 **to you? Take some time to try to describe what the joy of Heaven**

 **will be like!**

**4. How was the unfaithful servant wrong in his thinking and in his**

 **actions? What are some wrong conceptions of God that people**

 **have? Why is it critically important to have a correct concept of**

 **God?**

**5. What word of caution might the Lord give to someone who**

 **professes to have Christ as Savior, but does not faithfully serve**

 **Him?**

**Digging Deeper:**

**1. Read and jot down your observations on the parable of the Ten**

 **Virgins which occurs in Matthew 25:1-13. Why do you think Jesus**

 **gave this parable right before the parable of the talents?**

**2. Read and jot down your observations on the judgment of the sheep**

 **and the goats in Matthew 25:31-46. Why do you think Jesus gave**

 **this parable right after the parable of the talents?**

**3. What are some differences and similarities between the person**

 **described in 1 Corinthians 3:15 (see also 3:1) and the person**

 **described in Matthew 7:22-23?**

**4. What are some of the possible rewards we can receive from the**

 **Lord? See 1 Corinthians 9:24-27; James1:12; and 2 Timothy 4:5-8**

 **to get started.**