

“TAKE 10”- Worship While Away! (Sunday, November 19, 2017)

Share: The time for harvest is close at hand.
What have you done with the gifts God has given you?
We have brought our gifts to the Lord.
Praise God for the gifts and for the opportunities for service
that they represent.
We praise God for all the ways in which our lives have been
blessed.
Generous God, accept our gifts and our lives this day.
Loving God, accept our praise and gratitude as we worship you.

Read these words from a hymn today: *For the Fruit of All Creation*

For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God.

For the gifts of every nation, thanks be to God.

For the plowing, sowing, reaping, silent growth while we are sleeping,

Future needs in earth's safe-keeping, thanks be to God.

In the just reward of labor, God's will be done.

In the help we give our neighbor, God's will be done.

In our world-wide task of caring, for the hungry and despairing,

In the harvests we are sharing, God's will be done.

Read this scripture from worship: Matthew 25:14-30 (*The Message*)

¹⁴⁻¹⁸ “It’s also like a man going off on an extended trip. He called his servants together and delegated responsibilities. To one he gave five thousand dollars, to another two thousand, to a third one thousand, depending on their abilities. Then he left. Right off, the first servant went to work and doubled his master’s investment. The second did the same. But the man with the single thousand dug a hole and carefully buried his master’s money.

¹⁹⁻²¹ “After a long absence, the master of those three servants came back and settled up with them. The one given five thousand dollars showed him how he had doubled his investment. His master commended him: ‘Good work! You did your job well. From now on be my partner.’

²²⁻²³ “The servant with the two thousand showed how he also had doubled his master’s investment. His master commended him: ‘Good work! You did your job well. From now on be my partner.’

²⁴⁻²⁵ “The servant given one thousand said, ‘Master, I know you have high standards and hate careless ways, that you demand the best and make no allowances for error. I was afraid I might disappoint you, so I found a good hiding place and secured your money. Here it is, safe and sound down to the last cent.’

26-27 “The master was furious. ‘That’s a terrible way to live! It’s criminal to live cautiously like that! If you knew I was after the best, why did you do less than the least? The least you could have done would have been to invest the sum with the bankers, where at least I would have gotten a little interest.

28-30 ““Take the thousand and give it to the one who risked the most. And get rid of this “play-it-safe” who won’t go out on a limb. Throw him out into utter darkness.’

Talk together, responding to these questions:

- Where are we called to take risks to exercise faith and employ God’s gifts?
- How is God calling us to invest ourselves in the Lord’s work, grateful for what God has already done for us?
- What can we do to double all God has given?
- How can we use our hands, heart, feet, and mind in the week ahead to serve Christ and neighbor?

Pray together:

I give thanks this day for the gift of Christ and the privilege to follow in his way. This is the greatest life-giving treasure that I am called to steward; may I share this as freely as I have received it from the One who gave himself for the life of the world. May I be continually awakened to your love this day. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Bless one another:

Take each person's hand and say. "God's grace is for you, God's love is upon you, God's call is within you. Be kind to yourself and others this week as a child of God."

Resources Used: *Glory to God*, The Presbyterian Hymnal
Feasting on the Word, Year A, A Worship Companion