

*“For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; 15to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. 16The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. 17In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. 18But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. 19After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. 20Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’ 21His 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.’ 22And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’ 23His 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.’ 24Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; 25so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ 26But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? 27Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. 28So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. 29For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. 30As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’*

While my father was at work, my mother led Bible Studies at church.

While my father checked to see that the seed he was selling was of the highest quality, my mother went to the Betty Rinderle School in Huron to offer her time in working with learning disabled children.

While my father was seeing to it that the bins that held the popcorn were not infested with mice and rats, my mother went to the Erie County Home to befriend the elderly there who had no one to visit them.

While my father was dealing with personnel problems in his business, my mother was helping with the therapy prescribed for my grandfather who had suffered a stroke.

And every Sunday at church what was said and read made it seem that my mother was really doing the work of Christ, my father just work.

But when farmers' planted my father's seed, and the harvest from that seed was abundant the blessings touched the farmer's family, and every trucker who hauled the animals,

and the butchers who cut the meat, and every grocer who sold the meat that came from cattle fed on that corn, and all their families and all who bought the meat and ate of it.

And if my father did not do his work well, the harvest was not abundant, and the price of corn rose, and everyone in the chain down to the consumer had to pay more - how very many were affected.

I do God's work, you'd all agree on that, but whose work do you do? Like both my father and my mother you do God's work. In your home and office and school and factory, in your business or store or hospital or restaurant, whenever people are blessed, helped, fed, healed, taught, served, God's work is done. You are not just doing your job for the money, you are entrusted with holy work, for through your work, God's children are blessed.

“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.”

Can you hear God saying these words to you, knowing how you pour yourself into all that you do? Your energy, your mind, your concentration, you pour all of these into your work. Not just a job, doing what needs doing to get by but a service.

Well done, good and trustworthy parent.

Well done, good and trustworthy receptionist.

Well done, good and trustworthy manager.

Well done good and trustworthy teacher.

Well done, good and trustworthy clerk.

Well done, good and trustworthy accountant.

Well done.

And when the talents and the money are hidden, buried, never given for our neighbors blessing, then comes this reply, “You wicked and lazy slave.”

How is it with you? What God has given, how is it being used?

And when day's work is done, and the necessities provided, are there still more blessings that God can provide through you?

And what about us, together? This church? Could God visit the sick and feed the hungry and clothe the naked and call those who do not belong to Christ to faith? Could we reach and teach and support and love more and more?

There is no doubt in my mind that we together have been given thousands of talents and millions of dollars and that God can shower Christ's love through us upon so very many.

There is no doubt in my mind that always we in our life together are tempted to think small, and be afraid , and bury what God has given.

We will have to learn to have faith in God. God who calls us to service and to giving and to love will supply all that we need to do God's work. Not fear but faith - not I was afraid, but I believe Lord.

What we do in faith will bring a doubling of blessings. And many will give thanks to God.