

*Nurturing Faith...
Every Day in Every Way*

November 19, 2017

Twenty-Fourth Sunday of Pentecost

Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

Psalms 90:1-8 [9-11] 12

I Thessalonians 5:1-11

Matthew 25:14-30



The Three Toolboxes. *Objects: A toolbox.* The Parable of the Talents

Jesus told a story called the Parable of the Talents. I don't think Jesus will mind if I change the parable a little bit and tell you a story that I call, "The Parable of the Three Tool Boxes."

Once upon a time there was a man who had a construction business. The man had to go away on a trip, so he called his three employees together and said, "I have to go on a trip and, so I am leaving you three in charge. I have put together a tool box for each of you to use to keep the business going."

The tool boxes contained all the tools the employees needed, but since the three employees didn't all have the same abilities, each toolbox was different.

The man then left to go on his trip. When he returned, he called his employees together to see what they had done while he was gone.

The first employee said, "I knew that you had a great love for homeless people, so I built homes for the homeless.

"That is great!" said the employer. "I am going to put you in charge of all new construction for the company."

The second employee said, "I knew that you had a great love for the elderly, so I fixed up the homes of elderly people."

"That is wonderful!" said the employer. "I am putting you in charge of all the repair and maintenance work for the company."

The third employee said, "I knew that you are a very demanding boss and expect a lot. I was afraid that if I used the tools that one of them might get broken or that I might lose one of them. I put the tools in a safe place. Here they are, just like new."

The man said, "I didn't give you the tools for safekeeping, you are fired!" Since they had proven that they would make good use of them, he took the third man's toolbox and divided the tools between the other two employees.

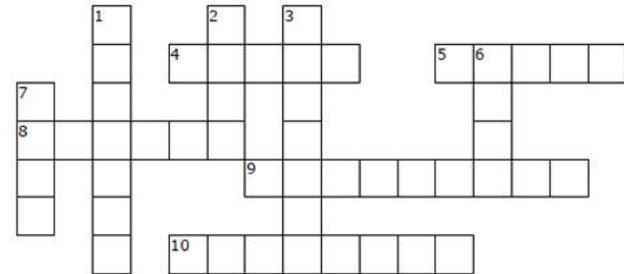
Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia. Abide in me as I abide in you; those who abide in me bear much fruit. Alleluia. (John 15:4, 5)

This is a good picture of what God has done in us. He has given each of us tools to use in building His kingdom. We don't all have the same tools, but God expects us to use whatever tools He has given to us.

Dear Lord, help us to be faithful in using the gifts that you have given to us to help others. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

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Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- 4. The coins and bills that are used to buy things
- 5. To divide or use something with others
- 8. To be filled with fear
- 9. A feeling of pleasure, satisfaction, or joy
- 10. To be trusted or loyal

DOWN

- 1. A trip, especially one over a great distance
- 2. The opposite of bad
- 3. A person who is employed to do work for another person
- 6. Put something in a place where it cannot be found
- 7. Not willing to work

AFRAID	HAPPINESS	LAZY	JOURNEY	FAITHFUL
GOOD	HIDE	SHARE	MONEY	SERVANT

TOOL NECKLACE: Give the child supplies and patterns to draw or trace a large tool to decorate, color, and hang around their neck to tell others about today's story! Write **TOOLS FOR THE KINGDOM** on their tool necklace.



THE PARABLE OF THE TALENTS

MATTHEW 25:14-30

