

**“Children of the Day”**  
Message by DD Adams  
24<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
Kemptown Providence U.M. Church  
November 19, 2017

The epistle lesson is from 1 Thessalonians, chapter 5, verses 1-11. We don't need to write to you about the timing and dates, brothers and sisters. <sup>2</sup> You know very well that the day of the Lord is going to come like a thief in the night. <sup>3</sup> When they are saying, “There is peace and security,” at that time sudden destruction will attack them, like labor pains start with a pregnant woman, and they definitely won't escape.

<sup>4</sup> But you aren't in darkness, brothers and sisters, so the day won't catch you by surprise like a thief. <sup>5</sup> All of you are children of light and children of the day. We don't belong to night or darkness. <sup>6</sup> So then, let's not sleep like the others, but let's stay awake and stay sober. <sup>7</sup> People who sleep sleep at night, and people who get drunk get drunk at night.

<sup>8</sup> Since we belong to the day, let's stay sober, wearing faithfulness and love as a piece of armor that protects our body and the hope of salvation as a helmet. <sup>9</sup> God didn't intend for us to suffer his wrath but rather to possess salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>10</sup> Jesus died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we will live together with him. <sup>11</sup> So continue encouraging each other and building each other up, just like you are doing already.

The gospel lesson is from Matthew, chapter 25, verses 14-30. “The kingdom of heaven is like a man who was leaving on a trip. He called his servants and handed his possessions over to them. To one he gave five valuable coins, and to another he gave two, and to another he gave one. He gave to each servant according to that servant’s ability. Then he left on his journey.

“After the man left, the servant who had five valuable coins took them and went to work doing business with them. He gained five more. In the same way, the one who had two valuable coins gained two more. The servant who had received the one valuable coin dug a hole in the ground and buried his master’s money.

“Now after a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. The one who had received five valuable coins came forward with five additional coins. He said, ‘Master, you gave me five valuable coins. Look, I’ve gained five more.’ “His master replied, ‘Excellent! You are a good and faithful servant! You’ve been faithful over a little. I’ll put you in charge of much. Come, celebrate with me.’

“The second servant also came forward and said, ‘Master, you gave me two valuable coins. Look, I’ve gained two more.’ “His master replied, ‘Well done! You are a good and faithful servant. You’ve been faithful over a little. I’ll put you in charge of much. Come, celebrate with me.’

“Now the one who had received one valuable coin came and said, ‘Master, I knew that you are a hard man. You harvest grain where you haven’t sown. You gather crops where you haven’t spread seed. So I was afraid. And I hid my valuable coin in the ground. Here, you have what’s yours.’

“His master replied, ‘You evil and lazy servant! You knew that I harvest grain where I haven’t sown and that I gather crops where I haven’t spread seed? In that case, you should have turned my money over to the bankers so that when I returned, you could give me what belonged to me with interest. Therefore, take from him the valuable coin and give it to the one who has ten coins.

Those who have much will receive more, and they will have more than they need. But as for those who don’t have much, even the little bit they have will be taken away from them. Now take the worthless servant and throw him outside into the darkness.’ “People there will be weeping and grinding their teeth. This is God’s word for God’s people.

Please pray with me. God we pray your blessing on this message. May the words of my mouth and the meditation of our hearts be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, our rock and our redeemer. Amen.

Peace be with you! Jesus confirmed that “In this world you will have trouble, but be of good cheer for I have overcome the world” (Jn 16:33). In Thessalonians we read that the apostle Paul said that people will speak of “peace

and security.” And in the midst of this *false confidence of peace and security*, the Lord has promised his Second Coming, like a thief in the night He’ll come. The Lord tells us to wear faithfulness and love as a piece of armor that protects our body and the hope of salvation as a helmet. And that God didn’t intend for us to suffer his wrath but rather to possess salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

In Matthew’s gospel, Jesus tells a parable. The traditional interpretation in verse 18 refers to Jesus as the master leaving on a journey. Some scholars have suggested other interpretations, but let’s discuss that in a moment. Before the master leaves, he entrusts varying amount of coins to each servant; therefore, each has a different starting point and also a choice whether to risk making a profit.

The first and second servant take that risk and make a profit, investing their coins, but the third servant is afraid. He buries his coin in the ground. Apparently, the third servant has a different view of his Master than the first two servants.

The foolish servant took no risk in what his Master entrusted to him, and when he gave his Master back his coin that he’d buried, he told him he was a hard man, harvesting grain he didn’t sow and gathering crops where he didn’t spread seed. He said he was afraid.

Well his master’s response to the third servant wasn’t too pleasant either! He called him an evil and lazy servant! Ouch! The master didn’t confirm or deny what

the third servant said about him, and it was only the third servant that expressed a negative view of his master. The first and the second servant had nothing to say.

True, we all hear things differently. The third servant is motivated by fear. He found his master to be harsh, so out of fear he hid the coin. In turn, the master acted harshly just as the third servant thought he would. How we hear things can be a self-fulfilling prophecy, and there's different ways people imagine their God to be.

To some, God is rule oriented. To others, God is one who punishes evil behavior. To others, the lens through which they see God is with eyes of faith, love, mercy, and forgiveness; they trust him. How do you see God as you wait for the Second Coming of Christ? Do you have fear and doubt that God is love? Or, do you see a God full of grace, love, and mercy?

The first and second servant felt self-assured and safe in their relationship with their master. The third was afraid and anxious which became self-fulfilling in their lives. If you were to evaluate what you've done in your life with the gifts God has given you what would you say?

The relationship we have with God and who we believe God to be will affect what we do with what we've been given. To someone who believes that God is full of grace, love, and forgiveness, this person will invest in the things God has given them without fear and anxiety. They'll give generously just as God has given

to them. They'll take advantage of every opportunity to obtain the blessings of God even when life is uncertain.

To be generous and give, to not hoard but to spread and give as much love, money, and good news as possible. Life will always be risky. Giving your money, your time, loving the difficult, but the bottom line is this. Jesus is coming back. Let's give and live as though we really believe that. We're children of light and children of the day. We don't belong to night or darkness, so let's continue to encourage and build each other up. Amen.