



REVEILLE'S GPS WEEKLY SCRIPTURE GUIDE

Explore scriptures and daily devotionals that reflect on this Sunday's sermon message. Sign up to receive the daily devotional email at www.bit.ly/devotional-rumc.

October 14-20, 2024

Sermon Title: "Well Done, Good and Faithful Servant" by Rev. Dr. Peter Moon

Use the space below to reflect on the questions in this week's devotionals, make class and sermon notes, and write down prayers and concerns.

Questions for small groups and individual reflection:

1. The message this week will focus on how we deal with our personal finances and our giving. How comfortable are you in speaking about this?
2. Reville has classically offered guidance about our giving, that we should all "give a sacrificial portion of our income with the goal of working towards the tithe." A tithe is ten percent of our income. How are you doing with that?
3. The message also speaks to the importance of giving within our discipleship. Generosity enables us to not be too consumed with money. It is a powerful thing to be able to release our money in a generous way. Does money have any hold on you?
4. The message also speaks to the way that taking a step up in giving can also result in an increase in our spiritual faith and fervor. Do you agree? Why or why not? Can you tell a story about that?

Monday, October 14: Read Matthew 25:14-23

For the past weeks, we have spoken about church and politics. Now we are talking about church and money. We are preparing for Stewardship Sunday, when our church asks us to make our pledge so that we might not only continue our mission to follow Jesus Christ and serve together as a hub of faith, hope, and action, but also take it to a new level in the upcoming year. Accordingly, we are challenged to bring our pledges to the next level, giving sacrificially with the goal of working towards the tithe. Today, as we read the first portion of the parable of the talents, we seek to hear the words, "Well done, good and faithful servant," spoken to the servants who aggressively invested the financial resources given to them for the benefit and glory of their master.

- **Relationship Opportunity:** *Discuss if you view your financial resources as "talents" provided to us by God to be aggressively invested in God's glory. Why or why not?*

Tuesday, October 15: Read Matthew 25:24-28

We are timid and afraid. We worry if we give too much, we may not have enough to live on. If we take a chance with a ministry or audacious initiative and it doesn't work out as we planned, we may feel that we wasted resources. So we hoard. We bury. We wait for a "better time" to give, invest, and stretch ourselves. Usually, that time never comes. We forget and move on to other things and the money...just disappears. This year, we challenge you to be bold with your giving and visionary with what your resources could yield on an eternal scale. How important is it to you to hear those words, "Well done, good and faithful servant?"

- **Study and Discipleship Opportunity:** *Set a time to discuss financial giving with your family. Do some quick math comparing your giving with your overall income. Where is it? Where should it be?*

Wednesday, October 16: Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-9

Most of us have heard the advice, "You reap what you sow" and, "The more you put into it, the more you get out of it." Are we taking that advice when it comes to tithing? Are we carefully budgeting our time, energy, and giving when it comes to church, or are we cheerfully giving generously, trusting that we are sowing seeds that will reap a harvest a hundredfold? If not, what are we trusting in more?

- **Relationship Opportunity:** *Discuss a time when you experienced the difference between sowing sparingly and sowing generously.*

Thursday, October 17: Read 2 Corinthians 9:10-15

Notice the abundant, overflowing language in today's scripture, reflecting the abundant, overflowing love, power, and providence of God. Not only are our talents not our own; but the results of our talents are not in our hands, but in God's. We need to stop budgeting for everything, through our limited human scale, and instead, faithfully budget into the eternal abundance of what God has already done for us and can do through us. Let us all thank God for the indescribable gifts we have received and for the opportunity to pay a portion of our gifts back, to be used in ways that will reap eternal blessings for our God and God's kingdom.

- **Relationship Opportunity:** *2 Corinthians 9 reminds us that God loves a cheerful giver. Are you able to give cheerfully to our church? Why or why not?*

Friday, October 18: Read Ecclesiastes 11:1-6

Our final reading this week is from one of the "Wisdom Books" of the Bible, Ecclesiastes. The writer of Ecclesiastes often spends time reflecting on the futility of human effort and the fleeting, ephemeral nature of human life on its own. As we read today's advice to "invest in seven ventures, yes, in eight; you do not know what disaster may come upon the land," we may be reminded of how fragile our land is, given the recent hurricanes and resulting devastation. Let us all take time to reflect on how we are investing our money and time, and how fleeting and ephemeral so much of it probably is. No, we do not know what comes tomorrow, but God does. Where will we sow our seed?

- **Discipleship Opportunity:** *Today, spend time in prayer and meditation about your pledge.*

Saturday, October 19: SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION: 2 Corinthians 9:11

"You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God."

Sunday, October 20: Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship by praying our Prayer of Common Confession: God of grace, you have called us to give ourselves completely to you, but we have given ourselves to lesser things. You have given us an abundance of time and opportunity. We have spent it upon ourselves. Our tables and cups run over with the financial blessings you have poured out upon us. We have kept it for ourselves. You have provided us with a beautiful creation to enjoy, but we have taken it for granted. Lord, in your mercy, forgive us.