



GEORGE STREET UNITED CHURCH

25 Buchanan Street, St. John's, NL, A1C 0A4



His 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.'

--Matthew 25: 21

Friday, October 8, 2021

To the Saints of the George Street Pastoral Charge,

Our in-worship Stewardship program has begun. Titled, "The Season of Gratitude" this five Sunday worship series hopes to instill within us the beginnings of a healthy understanding of stewardship. If our previous work explaining the time, talents, and treasures as gifts of God has been successful it will be a short walk to an understanding that stewardship is best understood as gratitude for those gifts given to us by God.

Note that in the context of the parable I appeal to Jesus chooses to render us as slaves, not friends or employees. We are owned, body and soul by the master and the materials at our disposal are not our own, they belong fully to the master.

Everything risked belongs to the master and the ones doing the risking belong to the master. The risk, brings with it reward and that reward is shared with the slave in the commendation, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave . . . enter into the joy of your master." Possible you read that as a promotion. That the slave is elevated into some non-slave position. That is dreaming on your part.

"You have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things." Still a slave and with greater responsibility. What has changed is that now, as a slave, we are welcomed into the joy of our master. That we become prized and valued possessions and the master's trust in us grows so that we can do even more with the master's resources.

Outside of the context of the parable we know that Jesus prefers to call us his friends and not his servants. There is no less desire from Jesus that we use the resources he shares to the profit of the Kingdom. There is no less desire that we should enter his joy. And out of that comes our gratitude.

Grace and peace to you,

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