

Readings from Matthew chapter 25—May 1st-7th, 2022

²⁴ “Then he who had received the one talent came and said, ‘Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed. ²⁵ And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, *there* you have *what is* yours.’ ²⁶ “But his lord answered and said to him, ‘You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed. ²⁷ So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest. ²⁸ So take the talent from him, and give *it* to him who has ten talents. ²⁹ ‘For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away. ³⁰ And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’”

Sunday: What was wrong with the attitude of the man with one talent? Pray for wisdom and the Spirit’s enabling grace for each family in Elkhart, Ind., RPC; **pray** that they would walk in deeper realization of their union with Christ. **Pray** for renewed plans for outreach at North Edinburgh (Scotland) RPC. **Pray** for full and complete healing of Dale Koons, Assistant Clerk of Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery, as he underwent surgery on Wednesday.

Monday: Of what was he afraid? Please pray for plans for outreach at Stillwater, Okla., RPC and Oklahoma City, Okla., RPC through vacation Bible school, discipleship, prayer societies, and other means; **pray** that God would be pleased to add to their numbers and build them up in love and unity. **Pray** for Trinity Community Christian Fellowship in Larnaca, Cyprus.

Tuesday: What are examples of laziness? Pray that Columbus, Ind., RPC would have creative ideas and opportunities for reaching out to those in the Columbus area with the gospel of Jesus Christ. **Pray** for Loughbrickland (Northern Ireland) RPC, especially its youth ministry.

Wednesday: Are you lazy? Pray with Treasure Valley (Meridian, Idaho) RPC for Pastor Ryan Hemphill and his wife, Alicia, as they anticipate the arrival of their sixth child this summer. **Pray** for the development of congregational plans at a meeting to be held tomorrow at Airdrie (Scotland) RPC.

Thursday: What can you do to avoid being lazy? Pray for the three unborn children of Dallas, Tex., RPC and their mothers. **Pray** for the RP Church of Australia, and especially the meeting of its Presbytery on Saturday.

Friday: How is eternal punishment described in v. 30? Pray for the numerous members and friends of Atlanta, Ga., RPC who struggle with health and financial issues. **Pray** for All Saints (Brea, Calif.) RPC as it seeks for a pastor.

Saturday: Read Luke 16:19-31 and reflect on the differences between heaven and hell. Pray with Grace (State College, Pa.) RPC for a healthy pregnancy and safe delivery this month for their pastor’s wife, Meg Turner. **Pray** that many

folks would honor the Sabbath and would attend ARPC’s service tomorrow.

Atlanta
Reformed
Presbyterian
Church

The Lord’s Day
May 1, 2022

Meeting every week at
574 Western Avenue
(corner of Western and Walnut Street)
Atlanta, Georgia
Worship at 3:30 PM

Pastor Frank J. Smith, Ph.D., D.D.

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(770)241-3946

Proclaiming the Kingship of Jesus Christ

Welcome and Announcements

Scripture Memory and Catechism Questions

The Call to Worship

Galatians 1:3-5

*The Invocation

*Psalm 106A

“O Praise the Lord! O Thank the Lord!”

Scripture Reading

I Corinthians 5

*Psalm 4B

“Answer When I Call, O God Who Justifies”

Pastoral Prayer

*Psalm 101

“Of Mercy and Of Justice, O Lord, I’ll Sing to Thee”

Scripture Text

Matthew 18:15-20

The Sermon

“The Purpose of Church Discipline”

*Prayer

*Psalm 15

“Lord, in Thy Tent Who Will Abide with Thee?”

*Benediction

*Psalm 134B

“Bless the Lord, All Servants of the Lord”

* *Congregation will please stand.*

We are so glad that you could join us today! Please be sure to return next week and bring a friend.

Scripture Memory and Catechism Questions & Answers

“Just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will.”—Ephesians 1:4-5.

“Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me. Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom.”—Psalm 51:5-6.

Q. 2 What rule hath God given to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy him? A. The word of God, which is contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, is the only rule to direct us how to glorify and enjoy him.

Q. 3 What do the Scriptures principally teach? A. The Scriptures principally teach what man is to believe concerning God, and what duty God requires of man.

Q. 4 What is God? A. God is a Spirit, infinite, eternal, and unchangeable, in his being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth.

For your convenience, a tithe box is located at the back.

Matthew 18:15-20 “The Purpose of Church Discipline”

Theme: Jesus instructs His disciples regarding the purpose, procedure, and power of church discipline.

I. The Purpose of Church Discipline

A. Restoration and reconciliation

1. Humility—“let each esteem the other better than himself”
2. Removal of obstacles—not causing a little one to stumble
3. Loving concern (cf. vv. 10 and 14)
4. Not to win the argument, or to show how much you know
5. To win your brother (Proverbs 11:30; II Corinthians 2:5; I Corinthians 5:5; Titus 1:12-13; James 5:20)

B. The purity of the church

1. Every organization must have effective method of discipline
2. Heretics must be stopped (Titus 1:10-11)
3. Immoral people must not be allowed to influence the rest
4. The saints must be taught (I Timothy 5:20)

C. The honor of Christ

1. He is the Head of the church
 - a. He is identified with His people, His bride
 - b. If her garments become soiled, this gives opportunity for the enemies to blaspheme
2. The Lord Jesus Christ will execute His own judgments

Observations

- A. Discipline is necessary for the existence of the church.
 1. It is a distinguishing characteristic/mark of the church
 2. Without discipline, you don't have a genuine church

- B. The church that does not carry out discipline experiences loss:
loss of purity, loss of power, loss of progress, loss of purpose

Application

- A. Never forget that love must be the motivation for the exercise of discipline
- B. Never forget that it is the ascended Lord who has established discipline and who uses discipline