

Sunday Service: October 25, 2020

“ The Way it Is, Isn’t Always the Way it Should Be! ”



In Jesus’ parable of the slaves and the nobleman, he seems to encourage single-minded devotion to making money – and lots of it!

Not only are slaves in this story given large sums of money, but they are directed to “invest and trade” to make even more for their already super-rich master ... and they are handsomely rewarded for doing so!

Jesus fails to make any comments about the culture of his day – its unjust economic system – or warn about the moral perils of accumulating such wealth. He just tells it the way it is – an unfair and immoral system!

Zoom service starts promptly at 10 am:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84841981079?pwd=OG1TMThyZFFQZ1Q0dStpZlJCdURUUT09>

1. GATHERING

Musical Prelude:

Call to Worship (L: leader, P: people)

All: Good and upright is the LORD; all paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness.

Leader: We live in troubled times, waiting for God’s burst of light into our dark world. Take heart! God will make things right.

People: As we wait, we pray that the Lord will sustain us and help us to walk in a right path. May God cast out the fear of darkness and light up our lives with hope

Leader: We greet Jesus’ coming to make things right.

All: We greet Jesus’ coming to make things right.

Opening prayer

Now should be the time of rain.

Now let the winds slow down.

Peace like a cool river to your neighbors and past your front door.

— a special prayer for us from Stacy Craig (UU Minister, Ashland, WI)

Music



2. HEARING GOD'S WORD

Scriptures (Luke 19:12-26)

Luke 19:12 So he said, "A nobleman went off to a distant land intending to acquire a royal title for himself and then return. 13 Calling ten of his servants, he gave each one of them one hundred thousand dollars, and told them: "Do business with this until I return." 14 But his fellow citizens, however, hated him and sent a delegation right on his heels, with a petition: "We do not want this man to rule over us." 15 As it turned out, he got his royal appointment and returned. He had those servants summoned to whom he had given the money, in order to find out what profit they had made. 16 The first came forward and reported, "Master, your



investment has increased ten times over." 17 He said to him, "Well done, you excellent servant! Because you have been trustworthy with a small amount, you will take charge of ten cities." 18 The second came forward and reported, "Master, your investment has increased five times over." 19 And he said to him,

"And you are to be in charge of five cities." 20 Then the last came forward and said, "Master, here's the money you gave me. I tucked it safely away in my mattress. 21 For you see, I was afraid of you, because you are ruthless: you take what you did not deposit, and reap what you did not sow." 22 He said to him, "You incompetent servant!... 23 Why didn't you at least put my money in the bank? Then I could have collected it with interest when I returned." 24 Then he said to his assistants, "Take the money away from this guy and give it to the one who made ten times as much." 25 "But my lord," they said, "he already has ten times as much." 26 He replied, "I tell you the truth, to everyone who has, even more will be given to them; and from those who have nothing, even what they do have will be taken away.

Message: "The Way it Is, Isn't Always the Way it Should Be!" (Steve)

3. RESPONDING TO GOD



Music

Joys and Concerns

Offering and Music

Closing

"It seems to me that an unjust law is no law at all." — Saint Augustine

"Leadership is a privilege to better the lives of others. It is not an opportunity to satisfy personal greed." — Mwai Kibaki

"Greed is the inventor of injustice as well as the current enforcer." — Julian Casablancas