A Weekly Word – 2026 11 15 Renee Noseworthy

Readings for the week of Nov. 15/26:

Judges 4:1-7
Psalm 123
Thessalonians 5:1-11
Matthew 25: 14-30

For as many years as I can remember, I have heard the message that Jesus will come again for His bride, those who have repented of their sins and made room in their lives for Him. In the Thessalonians 5 reading, that day is referred to as "The Day of the Lord".

Admittedly, Jesus' return can seem so far off, like it will never happen. But it is encouraging to look at 2 Peter 3:8-10a, which says,

But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief.

Before Jesus was exulted to heaven to sit at the right hand of God, the Father, He left a command for His followers that we know as the Great Commission, which is found in Matthew 28: 16-20,

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

When I think about the hope of spending all of eternity with Jesus, I realize the importance of telling others about Him, so they will have that same hope. The challenge that I feel personally and hope to encourage everyone else who has turned to Christ is, "how many others can we take to heaven with us to spend all of eternity with Jesus?"

In the Matthew 25 reading, we are told about a master who leaves on a journey and gives "talents" (money) to 3 of his servants to take care of in his absence. Upon the master's return, we see that the one to whom he gave 5 talents, doubled them and was able to give his master

10 talents. Likewise, the one to whom he gave 2 talents also doubled them and he was able to give his master 4 talents. Then we come to the servant to whom the master had entrusted 1 talent, Matthew 25:18 tells us *"But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money."*

Then, in Matthew 25: 24-28, we read, *" the one who had received the one talent said, "Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you did not scatter, so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours. But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents."*

Verses 29-30 goes on to say*, "For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance, but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"*

When we are faithful to telling others about Jesus, and living lives that glorify Him and show His love to others, not everyone will agree, but some will. We cannot live in fear of what others may think of us, and be like the servant who hid the 1 talent that his master had given him did.

Proverbs 29:25 (NLT) says, *"Fearing people is a dangerous trap, but trusting the Lord means safety."*

Let's encourage one another to step out in faith and increase the number of those who will be with Jesus for all of eternity.