As a Faithful Christian. . .

Intro:
- encourage you: salvation, remain faithful,
- 6 lessons we take from the parable of the talents to help us press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ

(vs. 14) You answered God’s call.
- vs. 14a parable: master called his slaves, they answered the call
  - 2 Th. 2:14 we are called by the gospel – you answered
  - Matt. 16:24-26 your commitment in answering the class: deny self, take up cross, follow Jesus
    - illus.: - Matt. 4:18-22 apostles dropped everything, left family and friends and jobs, followed Jesus

(vs. 14) God entrusts you with His possessions (“talents” / blessings).
- vs. 14b parable: master entrusted his possessions
  - Eph. 4:7 grace (charis) given according to the measure of Christ’s gift
    - Jesus (God) bestows gifts on us to serve in His kingdom (Eph. 4:16)
  - 2 Cor. 9:8-11 God gives us material blessings to use in our service to Him
  - 1 Tim. 6:17-19 God gives us all things – enjoy, rich in good works, share, laying up foundation in heaven
  - God entrusts us with the things that are His, to be good stewards and use, working in His kingdom (vineyard) – daily necessities, jobs to earn $, health to do His work, resources to help others

(vs. 15) God gives you “talents” according to your ability.
- vs. 15 parable: master gave to them according to their ability
  - 1 Cor. 10:13 God doesn’t give you more than you can handle, be tempted above what can bear
  - application:
    - we have the ability to deal properly with what we have – if we want
    - sometimes things can difficult to manage if we are using too many material blessings for personal enjoyment rather than doing good in the kingdom
  - warning:
    - Lk. 12:48 more given, more required – us in the world today – judgment for use of time, $, energy

(vs. 16-17) You are working hard in God’s kingdom.
- vs. 16-17 parable: “immediately” faithful slaves began to work, wicked slave was lazy and didn’t do minimum
  - illus.: song #396: “We’ll Work Till Jesus Comes”
  - Jn. 15:1-2, 5, 8-11 we are branches, God prunes, bear fruit throughout life
    - God glorified, love, obey, joy full (vs. 11) — doing work of Lord
  - 1 Cor. 12:14-27; Eph. 4:7, 16 everyone needed, interdependent, equally important, result is growth of body
➤ (vs. 19) You will be judged as God’s child.
- vs. 19 **parable:** gave account, glad to do it because you’ve been faithful
  - illus.: student, term paper, perfect, glad to hand it in and get grade
- 1 Pet. 4:17 **judgment begins with house of God** (group you want to be in), not want to be in next group
  - rf. 2 Cor. 5:10; Heb. 9:27
- 1 Cor. 6:2a, 3a faithful Christian will judge world and angels – what’s that going to be like
- application:
  - 2 Cor. 13:5a Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith, examine yourselves!
  - Jn. 12:48 judged by Christ’s word – judge yourself, what would God say about you if you were judged today

➤ (vs. 20-23) You will receive a home in heaven.
- vs. 21, 23 **parable:** rewarded with eternal home in heaven
- application:
  - all who are faithful, working to their ability, receive same reward – heaven
  - Matt. 20:1-16 parable of the land owner, paid same wages at end of day, those who worked longer upset
    - Matt. 20:15 owner’s reply to those who complained
    - Matt. 20:16 lesson Jesus taught
      - attitude toward our reward, toward God, toward one another
  - reminder of reward:
    - Rev. 21:1-7; 22:1-5 heaven

Summary / Inv.
- review: PP slide
- exhortation: be a faithful Christian, serving God the best you can every day
  - 1 Jn. 4:17 love casts out all fear, judgment – 1 Jn. 5:3 love is commitment to faithfully serve to best of ability
  - Phil. 3:20-21 eagerly wait for Jesus, living to serve Him everyday, looking for His return, anticipating your future glory with Him
➤ - inv.: everyone can leave as a Christian, with all these blessings. . . .
  - song #653, “When Jesus Comes”
  - song, “Where The Soul Never Dies” – I’m on my way to Canaan land