



The Weekly Jog

Volume 2, Issue 25 Jog: to nudge, to give a reminder, *jog* the memory

18th June 2008

"The New Plymouth Church Family Experiencing and Sharing the Transforming Power of Jesus."

The Parable of the Talents

(Parable of an unused gift)

"Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. "After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.' "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!' "The man with two bags of gold also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with two bags of gold; see, I have gained two more.' "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!' "Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you. His master replied, 'you wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed?

Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest. 'Take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. For those who have will be given more, and they will have abundance. As for those who do not have, even what they have will be taken from them. And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

Jesus. (Matthew 25:14ff)

This parable stands as warning against fear and laziness in serving the Lord. Also, what we use will increase what we do not use will be taken from us. Very sobering thoughts, don't you think?

Allan

Friends day June 29th, 08

Invitation cards are ready; see Allan Wednesday and get several to give to your friends, family and acquaintances.

Invite one or be BOLD and invite two!





Running With the Lord

Teresa Hampton

It's the heat of the day, a scorching day. I'm driving through our community. Around every corner and seemingly on every street are people jogging. I spot a woman running. She's beginning to show signs of fatigue, hands and arms drooping. She's dripping with sweat...excuse me, perspiration. Despite the weariness, she leans forward, pressing her body to give more, to go farther. Is she preparing for a marathon or some kind of race? Her eyes have a determined look, as if she's focused on some distant point. What does she see?

Watching the woman run reminds me that I'm running, too. So are you. There are days when the race is difficult. The heat and pressure of daily life takes its toll. The worries and pace of the rat race makes us weary. Sin becomes a heavy weight. Our arms are drooping and our knees are weak (Hebrews 12:12). But when we lay aside the weight of worry, allowing God to be in control, and lay aside sin, which has entangled our feet, we again find the run very fulfilling (12:2). The race is on. Our souls are enlivened with the study of God's word, we're energized by the Lord's work, and we enjoy the race. We are refreshed, energy filled, and savouring every minute of this Christian life.

Do we still face hills and valleys? Oh, yes. What motivates us to continue? If we listen intently, we hear a stadium full of saints shouting, "You can do it! You're going to finish. The crown will be yours!" So, we run with endurance the race before us. This spiritual run is the most important race of our lives because eternity hinges on its outcome. Our eyes are set on heaven. Our aim is the finish line. What gives us determination and confidence? Our running partner is the best. He has already run the course. He is the originator and finisher of our faith. We're running with the Lord!

Today's Verse: *"Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith."*

Hebrews 12:1-2

Allan psalms Journal: What Psalm 13 means

Verses 1 - 2: David is depressed. David thought that God had left him. That is what "hide your face from me" means.

Verses 3 - 4: David asks God for an answer. David asks for "light to my eyes". This means life. David does not want to die.

Verses 5 - 6: God does not answer David. But David believes that God WILL answer. This is because the love of God never fails.