

# Welcome to the church of Christ at Alisal

## Sermon for the Lord's Day "The Parable of the Talents" part two



Worship today will be via Zoom @ 9:00am

*Write and let us know if you would like an invitation.*

**Bible Class** - Nito

**Hymn**- Kerry

**Opening Prayer** - Jordan

**Hymn**- Kerry

**Lord's Supper** - Kerry

**Morning Lesson** - Paul

**Hymn** - Kerry

**Closing Prayer** -Nito

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*Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour.*

*1 Corinthians 3:8*

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***We are praying for you!***

Father, please bless all the preachers and teachers who speak the truth in love and truth, and forgive our country for its transgressions, in Jesus Name we pray, Amen.

### **The wisdom of Solomon...**

*The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel; To know wisdom and instruction; to perceive the words of understanding; To receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, and judgment, and equity;*

*Proverbs 1:1-3*

*Our Lord's Day Plan...*

### **What Makes a Good Judge?**

Matt Clifton

Our nation is once again in the midst of controversy regarding the appointing of a Supreme Court justice. Those on the left and those on the right will wrangle and grapple through the process, each having their own opinions on what makes a good judge. But does the Bible have any guidance for us on the matter?

In Exodus 18:13-23, the appointing of judges was suggested by Moses' father-in-law as a way to take the burden off of the prophet. The hopeful outcome of this system was that "all this people will also go to their place in peace" (Ex. 18:23). Jethro's advice to Moses was to choose men with certain qualities. They were to be:

**Able.** This meant they were to be competent and able to perform their duties; men who would do their work with all their strength (Ecc. 9:10; Col. 3:17). A good judge would use their skills to the maximum!

**Reverent.** Reverence is seen in God's people throughout the Bible. Examples such as the Hebrew midwives (Exodus 1:17-21) who valued life because they fear God, and men like Job who withstood hardship because he feared the Lord (Job 1:1). Good judges will be people who have wisdom (Psalm 111:10) and know the meaning of life (Ecc. 12:13) because they understand that God is supreme.

**True.** To be a lover of truth means to recognize there is right and wrong, and judge accordingly (John 7:24). Good judges will be lovers of God's word (John 17:17; Psalm 119:160), not inventors of ways to let evil off the hook (Romans 1:32), and not hypocrites who don't practice what they prescribe for others (Rom. 2:1-3).

**Honest.** Bribery has always been an issue among judges, apparently. Israel's sins included judges taking bribes (Micah 7:3). The judges Moses appointed were to be "haters of covetousness," which meant they would value justice over materialism, thus rejecting bribes.

These values from the Old Testament account are descriptive of general principles for righteous judges in our own time. Since a Supreme Court justice would certainly be a part of the civil legal system that Romans 13:1-7 covers, we understand that biblical morals would be a great benefit to being "God's minister to you for good" (Rom. 13:4). Let us pray for our nation during this time, that judges with these qualities may be found!

To the LORD your God belong the heavens, even the highest heavens, the earth and everything in it.  
Deuteronomy 10:14

**Thought**

*It all belongs to God! The multifaceted and creative side of our heavenly Father's nature is revealed in the astounding beauty and variety in our universe. This is not our world, but our Father has chosen to share it with us as one of his many gifts to us. Our Creator chose to provide us with the changing seasons in each year and the kaleidoscope of colors in each sunset and sunrise to frame our days. These are reminders of his love for beauty and variety, for predictability and also change. In addition to all that God has made and placed before us, he has crowned us, his human children, with glory and honor. Each of us is made, even with all of our differences, in his likeness. We are bearers of his divine image. Each person and all the peoples are precious to him. All the universe is the LORD's, yet in his greatness, he chooses to know each one of us intimately. Ah, my friend, that is grace upon grace from the LORD who loves each one of us with an undying love as he sustains a universe too vast for us to imagine!*

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**Truth Should Be Published!**

Matt Clifton

The first American multi-page newspaper was published on September 25, 1690, with a single edition of "Publick Occurrences Both Foreign and Domestick" appearing in Boston, Massachusetts. However, British authorities considered the newspaper offensive and ordered its immediate suppression due to its containing "reflections of a very high nature" and "sundry doubtful and uncertain reports." Many speculate that it was the revealing of sinful practices among royals that got the paper shut down. It was the first and only edition.

The written word is powerful, conveying thoughts and ideas that can stir people to action. Godly people like the truth to be published. Weakness and ungodliness, however, spurs folks to suppress the truth. "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them" (Rom. 1:18-19). Let the people of God be always lovers of truth and publish it far and wide!

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Please forgive my error! Last week I mis-named the rose on the front cover - it's correct name is *Perle d'Or* or "Bottonhole Rose"

**October 18, 2020**



*Perle d'Or*  
1884

**Meeting Days and Times**

**Sunday ..... 9:00 am**

**Wednesday ..... Bible Class, singing & prayer - 6:00 pm**

*Zoom Times...*

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