**Hillside UMC Sermon Prep Sheet**

***Pastor Chris Neikirk***

**Date: Sunday, November 19, 2017 – Thanksgiving Sunday**

**Sermon Title: Useless Buried Treasure**

**Scripture: Matthew 25:14-30 (NIV)** 14“Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. 15To 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. 16The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. 17So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. 18But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. 19“After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. 20The 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.’ 21“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!’ 22“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.’ 23“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!’ 24“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. 25So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.’ 26“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? 27Well 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. 28“‘So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. 29For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. 30And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

**Call to Worship: (8:30 only)**

Leader: I raise my eyes to you— you who rule heaven.  
Just as the eyes of servants attend to their masters’ hand,  
just as the eyes of a female servant attends to her mistress’ hand—  
that’s how our eyes attend to the Lord our God until he has mercy on us

**People: Have mercy on us, Lord!**

**Have mercy because we’ve had more than enough shame.  
We’ve had more than enough mockery from the self-confident,  
more than enough shame from the proud.**

**Basic Theme:God is the giver of every good and perfect gift. God has equipped the church, which is made up of individual believers, with all the resources necessary to accomplish the task to which we’ve been called. On this day of Thanksgiving, we celebrate the Creator who is the giver of those resources. We worship the only One who is worthy. We honor God by being good stewards of His resources.**

**Sermon Snapshot (Key Points): God blesses each of us with abundance… some of us may have to look a little deeper or search a little harder to identify our abundance, but it is there. God calls us to be good stewards and to use that which we’ve been blessed with to grow and build the Kingdom. Some of us hoard those resources for fear of being found unfaithful, fear of misusing them, or fear of doing without. Unused resources are like buried treasure – useless!**

**So What? With what has God blessed you with? Do you routinely pause to thank God for his blessings? Is your gratitude only expressed with words? Are you a hoarder of God’s resources? What will it take for you to take the risk to passionately use all of your resources in service to God? Do you trust that God is able to multiply and increase His resources?**