

# TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

NOVEMBER 19, 2017



## THE LESSON Judges 4:1-7

<sup>1</sup>After Ehud had died, the Israelites again did things that the LORD saw as evil. <sup>2</sup>So the LORD gave them over to King Jabin of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor. The commander of his army was Sisera, and he was stationed in Harosheth-ha-goiim. <sup>3</sup>The Israelites cried out to the LORD because Sisera had nine hundred iron chariots and had oppressed the Israelites cruelly for twenty years.

<sup>4</sup>Now Deborah, a prophet, the wife of Lappidoth, was a leader of Israel at that time. <sup>5</sup>She would sit under

Deborah's palm tree between Ramah and Bethel in the Ephraim highlands, and the Israelites would come to her to settle disputes. <sup>6</sup>She sent word to Barak, Abinoam's son, from Kedesh in Naphtali and said to him, "Hasn't the LORD, Israel's God, issued you a command? 'Go and assemble at Mount Tabor, taking ten thousand men from the people of Naphtali and Zebulun with you. <sup>7</sup>I'll lure Sisera, the commander of Jabin's army, to assemble with his chariots and troops against you at the Kishon River, and then I'll help you overpower him.'"

## THE RESPONSE Psalm 123

<sup>1</sup>I raise my eyes to you—you who rule heaven.

<sup>2</sup>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.

<sup>3</sup>Have mercy on us, LORD! Have mercy because we've had more than enough shame.

<sup>4</sup>We've had more than enough mockery from the self-confident, more than enough shame from the proud.

## THE EPISTLE 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

<sup>1</sup>We don't need to write to you about the timing and dates, brothers and sisters. <sup>2</sup>You know very well that the day of the Lord is going to come like a thief in the night. <sup>3</sup>When they are saying, "There is peace and security," at that time sudden destruction will attack them, like labor pains start with a pregnant woman, and

they definitely won't escape. <sup>4</sup>But you aren't in darkness, brothers and sisters, so the day won't catch you by surprise like a thief. <sup>5</sup>All of you are children of light and children of the day. We don't belong to night or darkness. <sup>6</sup>So then, let's not sleep like the others, but let's stay awake and stay sober. <sup>7</sup>People who sleep sleep at night, and people who get drunk get drunk at night. <sup>8</sup>Since we belong to

the day, let's stay sober, wearing faithfulness and love as a piece of armor that protects our body and the hope of salvation as a helmet. <sup>9</sup>God didn't intend for us to suffer his wrath but rather to possess salvation through

our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>10</sup>Jesus died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we will live together with him. <sup>11</sup>So continue encouraging each other and building each other up, just like you are doing already.

## THE GOSPEL Matthew 25:14-30

<sup>14</sup>"The kingdom of heaven is like a man who was leaving on a trip. He called his servants and handed his possessions over to them. <sup>15</sup>To one he gave five valuable coins, and to another he gave two, and to another he gave one. He gave to each servant according to that servant's ability. Then he left on his journey.

<sup>16</sup>After the man left, the servant who had five valuable coins took them and went to work doing business with them. He gained five more. <sup>17</sup>In the same way, the one who had two valuable coins gained two more. <sup>18</sup>But the servant who had received the one valuable coin dug a hole in the ground and buried his master's money.

<sup>19</sup>Now after a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. <sup>20</sup>The one who had received five valuable coins came forward with five additional coins. He said, 'Master, you gave me five valuable coins. Look, I've gained five more.'

<sup>21</sup>His master replied, 'Excellent! You are a good and faithful servant! You've been faithful over a little. I'll put you in charge of much. Come, celebrate with me.'

<sup>22</sup>The second servant also came forward and said, 'Master, you gave

me two valuable coins. Look, I've gained two more.'

<sup>23</sup>His master replied, 'Well done! You are a good and faithful servant. You've been faithful over a little. I'll put you in charge of much. Come, celebrate with me.'

<sup>24</sup>Now the one who had received one valuable coin came and said, 'Master, I knew that you are a hard man. You harvest grain where you haven't sown. You gather crops where you haven't spread seed. <sup>25</sup>So I was afraid. And I hid my valuable coin in the ground. Here, you have what's yours.'

<sup>26</sup>His master replied, 'You evil and lazy servant! You knew that I harvest grain where I haven't sown and that I gather crops where I haven't spread seed? <sup>27</sup>In that case, you should have turned my money over to the bankers so that when I returned, you could give me what belonged to me with interest. <sup>28</sup>Therefore, take from him the valuable coin and give it to the one who has ten coins. <sup>29</sup>Those who have much will receive more, and they will have more than they need. But as for those who don't have much, even the little bit they have will be taken away from them. <sup>30</sup>Now take the worthless servant and throw him outside into the darkness.'

"People there will be weeping and grinding their teeth."

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