

"THANKS BE TO GOD, EVEN WHEN RISKY" - NOVEMBER 15, 2020
THE TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
ZEPHANIAH 1: 7, 12-18; I THESS. 5:1-11; MATTHEW 25:14-30
Promises for your pocket or purse - Take notes and carry them with you.

Are you a risk taker? Are you willing to give something new a try? If someone gave you something to care for, how would that feel? If God gave you something, would you tuck it away, or would you risk putting it to use? Today, Jesus tells a parable about the need to risk as we give thanks, serve and care for all we have freely received. What we are promised is God will continue to take risks for our salvation. God took a risk to send Jesus. God takes the risk to forgive and save us. God takes the risk to promise his return. When you look at every sign of God's love, when you think it best to tuck them away to quietly care for them or protect them, when you wonder whether or not it is worth the risk to share them or to tell others about them; give thanks for every sign of God's love, and trust the Lord of your life faithfully walks with you, taking the risk to turn what already is, into what will become even more!

1. God in Jesus gives much to us. We are not to hide it, protect it, tuck it away. What we do with every sign of God's love can be risky, risky, risky.
Zephaniah 1:12,18; 1 Thess. 5:8-11; Matthew 25:16-17,21, 23, 27
 - A. Being a child of God, is risky.
 - B. Being a disciple, is risky.
 - C. Sharing the story, telling others, inviting a friend, is risky.
 - D. Using our God-given talents, is risky indeed. Celebrating the gifts of others, can be risky as well.
 - E. Easy to fear failure. God is willing to risk helping us to become a blessed sign of love, and even more.

2. God, in every sign of love, takes the biggest risks. Matthew 25:14-15
 - A. God risked sending his Son.
 - B. God risks saving us and putting so much in our care.

3. Believing can feel risky. Believing, trusting, surrendering to, every sign of God's love, may feel incredibly risky. Matthew 25:14-15, 21,23
 - A. Inviting someone, is risky. Trusting your neighbor or friend enough to talk about Jesus can feel risky.
 - B. Coming to worship, is risky.
 - C. Expanding ministries and opportunities, is risky.
 - D. Trusting what God has given will become even more, is risky.
 - E. We have been asked to face and to overcome many risks, there will be more risks this church, we, will be asked to face.
 - F. Every risk brings some level of uncertainty and discomfort, yet, no risk is wasted when we trust who is with us and who took the risk first. What will God help us to become, or to do, next?

4. Think about one more thing, 'maybe God is no risk taker at all.' Maybe God, in every sign of love, did not risk anything at all to save you, to count on you; after all, God knows the final outcome! God is that certain, that absolute, that final, that faithful. Trusting God is risk free! Now thank we all our God!
1 Thessalonians 5:4-10; Matthew 25:14,21-29