

## The Parable of the Talents

### MESSAGE INTRODUCTION

As Psalm 24:1 proclaims, “The earth is the LORD’s, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.” Amidst a culture that exalts consumerism and human autonomy, these words remind us that we and everything we own belong to God. This reality has far-reaching implications for how we manage our time, abilities, relationships, finances, and Christian witness. In our study of the parable of the talents, we shall see that, as followers of Jesus Christ, it is both our responsibility and our privilege to utilize the resources under our care for the glory of God and the growth of His church.

### SCRIPTURE READINGS

Matthew 25:14-30

### TEACHING OBJECTIVES

1. To present and exegete the parable of the talents in Matthew 25:14-30.
2. To describe the biblical concept of stewardship.
3. To emphasize each Christian’s responsibility to participate in the mission of the church.
4. To evoke a longing to hear Christ one day say the words, “Well done, good and faithful servant.”

### QUOTATIONS

*Whatever abilities and advantages we have, they are not our own; we are but stewards of them, and must give account to our Lord, whose goods they are.* –Matthew Henry

*Men of slender abilities may often do more good in the world than men of much greater talents. It is rather a warm heart than a strong head which is required to do good. A humble Christian, by his life, example, and conversation, may often do much more good than is done by those in more elevated stations, and with far greater gifts.* –Albert Barnes

### BIBLE STUDY AND DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. As Dr. Sproul indicated, in our familiarity with the gospel of grace we can sometimes develop an overly casual attitude toward God’s holy character and His desires for us. How might our behavior reveal an underlying mindset of entitlement with regard to grace?
2. Biblically speaking, what does it mean to be a steward? In addition to this parable, what other examples of good stewardship are found in Scripture?
3. What are some of the abilities, resources, passions, and objects that God has entrusted to you? What are some ways that you can steward these gifts well?
4. In part, the reason that the third servant did not use his master’s gift well was because he did not truly know or understand the character of his master. How can our fear, lack of faith, or misunderstanding of who God is lead us to misuse or squander the gifts that God has given to us?