

Sermon Title: Use It or Lose It

Sermon Series: Vision

Scripture: Matthew 25:14-30

Speaker: Brad Bush



Two really bad words: “That’s Mine!”

Matthew 25:14-30 – The Parable of the Talents

Matthew 25:14-18 ESV

14 “For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. 15 To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. 16 He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. 17 So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. 18 But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master’s money.”

1. God is the _____ of all things.

Colossians 1:16 ESV

“For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.”

John 1:3 ESV

All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made.

Genesis 1:26 ESV

“Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

We are to use everything we have to give glory to God and to advance the gospel.

God’s glory or my pleasure?

2. God is an _____

James 1:17 ESV

“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.”

Matthew 25:15 ESV

“To one he gave five talents, to another two talents, and to another one talent—each according to his own ability. And he went on his journey.”

Our value to God is never based on our abilities.

1 John 4:19 ESV

We love because he first loved us.

Romans 5:8 ESV

...but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

1 Peter 4:10-11 ESV

“As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.”

1 Corinthians 12:27 NIV

“Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.”

“We should not be afraid of failure in our lives, we should be afraid of success in things that really do not matter.”

—Francis Chan

Matthew 25:19-23 ESV

19 Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. 20 And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me five talents; here, I have made five talents more.’ 21 His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’ 22 And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me two talents; here, I have made two talents more.’ 23 His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’

3. We will be _____

Matthew 25:21b ESV

“Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.”

1 Corinthians 4:1-5 ESV

“This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. 2 Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful. 3 But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by any human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself. 4 For I am not aware of anything against myself, but I am not thereby acquitted. It is the Lord who judges me. 5 Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive his commendation from God”

Matthew 25:24-30 ESV

24 He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, 25 so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here, you have what is yours.’ 26 But his master answered him, ‘You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed? 27 Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. 28 So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. 29 For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. 30 And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

Two options for us when the Master returns:

1. For to everyone who has (Jesus) will more be given, and he will have an abundance.

OR

2. But from the one who has not (Jesus), even what he has will be taken away. And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Romans 8:1-2 ESV

“There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.”

“Well done good and faithful servant...Enter into the joy of your master.”

Questions

1. What is something you are passionate about or enjoy spending your time doing? How can you use that to give glory to God?

2. What is one blessing God has given you recently? Why do you think He gave you that particular blessing?

3. Can you share a gift from God that you have seen expressed in someone else in the room?

Read Colossians 1:16

16 For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.

4. If God created all things and all things were created through him and for him.

5. How should that affect how we spend our time? Give examples

6. How should that affect how we handle our finances? Give examples

7. How should that affect the relationships in our lives? (marriages / families / coworkers...)

Read James 1:16-18

16 Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. 17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to

change. 18 Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

8. What does verse 17 tell us about God? What does it tell us about our own talents, gifts and abilities?

9. What does verse 18 tell us is the greatest gift we each have? (hint..who is the word of truth?)

Read 1 Peter 4: 10-11

10 As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: 11 whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

10. Each member of Princetown Church has received a different gift to serve one another and glorify God.

What are some examples of how you have seen people using their gifts to do that here?

11. How has God gifted you to serve? Are you aware of your own gifts, talents, and abilities?

Read 1 Corinthians 4:1-5

4 This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. 2 Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful. 3 But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by any human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself. 4 For I am not aware of anything against myself, but I am not thereby acquitted. It is the Lord who judges me. 5 Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive his commendation from God.

12. How does God want nonbelievers to view us? (v1)

13. What is the mark of a good steward? (v2)

14. What are some of the reasons in verses 3-5 that we not judge each other or ourselves?

15. On what basis will God judge and reward his children (believers)?

16. What are some of the blessings God has given us this year as Princetown Church?

17. What are some ways we can be good stewards of these investments from God?

18. When Satan fails to lead us astray he often tries to distract us from giving glory to God with our lives. What are some ways we get distracted from God's design for us? Is there anything that has helped you to stay focused on what's really important?

19. Is there anything God has given you for His glory that you have "dug in the ground and hidden"? Pray this week that God would reveal it to you.

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