

**May 3, 2026**

**Series:** Godly Ambition

**Title:** Cultivating Your Growth - Panel Discussion

**Scripture:** Matthew 25:14-30

**Speaker:** Ian Bonthron



## **Ambition - Aspiring for a Goal**

**A Godly ambition is having a heart for the gospel. A desire to please God. Living a humble life. Striving hard and doing your best with the talents God's given you.**

### **Matthew 25:14 ESV**

14 "For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property.

### **Matthew 25:15 ESV**

15 To one he gave five **talents**, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away.

### **Matthew 25:16-18 ESV**

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.

### **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.'

**Christians should \_\_\_\_\_ grow their gifts to honor God.**

### **Matthew 25:24-25 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.'

**The reason the servant doesn't serve well is he doesn't know the \_\_\_\_\_ . He's not really a \_\_\_\_\_ at all.**

**Matthew 25:26-30 ESV**

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.'

**Don't base your salvation on your works, but if your works show you don't trust God, turn \_\_\_\_\_ him, not \_\_\_\_\_ him.**

**Be \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ grow in using your time, talents, and treasure to honor God.**

## Group Questions – May 3, 2026

### Getting to Know You Questions:

1. If someone gave you a “talent” worth 20 years of wages today, what’s the first completely irresponsible thing you’d be tempted to do with it?
2. What’s the worst job you’ve ever had—and how long did it take before you started questioning all your life choices?

### Into the Bible Questions:

#### Read Matthew 25:14-30

14 *“For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants[a] 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. 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.’ 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.’*

1. What differences do you see between the faithful servants and the unfaithful one beyond just their results?
2. The master rewards faithfulness, not results. Why is that significant for how we view ambition?
3. What does the third servant’s view of the master reveal about his heart and how can a wrong view of God affect the way someone lives and uses their gifts?
4. How does the phrase “Well done, good and faithful servant” redefine success?
5. What warning is Jesus giving in this parable that we shouldn’t ignore?

#### Read Psalm 78:70-72

70 *He chose David his servant and took him from the sheepfolds; 71 from following the nursing ewes he brought him to shepherd Jacob his people, Israel his inheritance. 72 With upright heart he shepherded them and guided them with his skillful hand.*

6. How was God using David's faithfulness to grow David's "skillful hands" for great assignments?

**Read James 4:13-15**

*13 Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit"— 14 yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. 15 Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that."*

7. How do the principles from this passage speak to making plans, holding them loosely, and preparing for setbacks? Why is it actually freeing to know that the ultimate outcomes are controlled by God?

**Read Proverbs 27:17**

*17 Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another.*

8. Based on the principle in this verse, how might collaboration and connecting to Christian community help us cultivate godly ambition?

**Read 1 John 5:14-15**

*14 And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. 15 And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.*

9. Why would prayer for Godly ambition be important? How does this passage give you confidence to pray boldly?

**Application Questions:**

1. What is one "talent" (time, ability, resource) God has given you that you may be underusing right now?

2. Where in your life are you tempted to "bury" what God has given you instead of using it?

3. When you face discouragement or feel stuck, what usually causes you to want to stop—and how can you push through and be faithful in the small things instead?

4. Are there areas where fear—not trust—is driving your decisions? What would trusting God look like instead?

5. What distractions most often keep you from growing in godly ambition - Examples:

- Set a specific limit on media consumption;
- Start your day by creating, journaling, time with God instead of consuming media;
- Create a few daily non-negotiables like spiritual morning routines, physical activity, family time, evening wind down time;
- Optimize your environment for good work and not distraction;
- Setting a goal in one simple area of your life and celebrating when you "win"

6. What practical step can you take this week to “master the fundamentals” (work, discipline, consistency)?
7. How can you better “stack your talents” or grow what God has already given you?
8. Who are several people influencing you most right now—and are they helping or hindering your spiritual growth? What should you do?
9. What is one way you can intentionally pursue deeper Christian community this month?
10. Who is someone you could collaborate with to grow spiritually or serve more effectively?
11. What rhythms (prayer, Scripture, worship) do you need to strengthen to build endurance in your faith?