

Out of This World

Week 8: Risky Business

Objective: To challenge us to invest wholeheartedly in the Kingdom of God.

Read together:

"Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. 15 To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. 16 The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. 17 So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. 18 But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

19 "After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. 20 The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.'

21 "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

22 "The man with two bags of gold also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with two bags of gold; see, I have gained two more.'

23 "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

24 "Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. 25 So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.'

26 "His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? 27 Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.

28 "So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. 29 For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. 30 And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

Matthew 25:14-30

- Do you consider yourself to be a risk taker or do you tend to play it safe? Would others in your life agree?
- Do you agree or disagree that "taking a risk is an act of faith." Why?
- Is there a difference between taking a risk and being foolish? If so, what's the difference?
- The pastor said, "Everyone has been given something to invest in the kingdom." What do you feel you have been given that you should invest in the kingdom? What are you doing to use it to build the Kingdom of Jesus?
- What is your greatest fear/hesitancy about taking risks for the sake of building the Kingdom?
- Fear of failure often causes us to avoid taking risks. In the sermon we heard that "Trying and failing isn't punished. Failing to try is." Does that statement change the way you approach taking risks for the Kingdom? How?

Final Thoughts: You have been entrusted by God with unique resources, skills talents and abilities. Rather than bury them, take a risk and invest them in His kingdom.

This Week: What risk do you need to consider taking for the sake of advancing God's kingdom

