

March 15, 2026: Matthew 25:14–30

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Introduction:

Jesus wants to shape our life as a Thank You for His gift to us. The local church that loves Jesus and welcomes the stranger into their midst is also the church that empowers us all for Monday and has an impact on their community.

We are now in the last collection of Jesus' teaching in the book of Matthew.

- Chapter 23: bringing the religious leaders to account "woe to you."
- Chapter 24: prophecy, the gospel of the kingdom will be preached to all nations.
- Chapter 25: 3 (Three) parables
 - 1-13 The Ten (10) Virgins: Your lamps must be ready for the upcoming bridal possession. Focus on planning, preparation, and the way of God.
 - 31-46 The Sheep and the Goats: Identify with the broken and vulnerable and follow Christ into their sufferings and care for the broken. Compassion in divine empathy.
 - 14-30 (today's focus): Master expects a return on his investment and a failure to at least try results in divine discipline and judgment. Put the Master's resources to work.

Our Scripture Today: Matthew 25: 14-30

The Parable of the Bags of Gold

14 "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,[a] 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.'

What insights can we gain from this portion of scripture?

1. The Master bestows varying resources.

There is a diverse context of capacity (how much can each handle). These are HIS resources and He gives them as he sees fit. He has given each of us natural and spiritual gifts and a placement (family, friends, church, work, community, etc.) to use them. God gives us these gifts; do not envy other's gifts instead fully develop your own gifts. Be a living stone fitting into the unfinished temple that He is building. Remember that all resources can grow- develop the ones you have and respect, honor, and appreciate the gifts of others.

2. What a deal!

God creates us, redeems us in Christ, has a designer life of beautiful works, opens doors for our investment through service, empowers us by the Holy Spirit, and then rewards us for multiplying what was his work all along!

Give glory to the Giver and your stewardship which allows the gifts you have been given to multiply. God did not give you a loan, He gave you a divine investment and now how will we use those gifts he gave us? We need prayer and the power of the Holy Spirit to multiply our gifts.

3. Choose faith, not fear!

The fearful and condemned servant allowed fear to displace faith and the paralysis of paranoia to hinder him fruitless. Faithfulness is fruitfulness and capacity can grow as we abide in Jesus and obey His love-command as we venture out in mission.

Do not let fear displace faith. Everything God desires for us is on the other side of fear. We can take all that God gave us and multiply it for His glory. We bring a lifetime into everything we do, we are always being diligent and putting our whole life into it. Faithfulness is fruitfulness, our capacity can grow as we abide in Him, and we can multiply as we go out and live out His mission for our life.

4. Full participation in God's mission means preparing for our Lord's Return and showing hospitality toward the vulnerable.

There are, in Francis Schaeffer's words, "no little people" in God's service- only diverse callings and capacities, gift and opportunities. Are we offering ALL of life as worship? We must make disciples that are vocationally stable and occupationally nimble. We have agency and we use our liberty of the common good!

We all have the capacity to show compassion. We need to "do today well" for tomorrow. Today's faithfulness is tomorrow's fruitfulness The mission is to make disciples who will be faithful and fruitful. What matters to the Lord is value creation, not just the balance in our bank. We add value to the world and the value we create is what matters.

Romans 12:1-2: We are living sacrifices and live 24/7 in the presence of God.
Colossians 3:17-24: Do it all for the glory of God. Take our joy that we find during church and take it into the world. Leaders need to make disciples who know their purpose and are ready for new work. Will we/they be ready to do the Master's work? Will we/they be able to shift when and where He calls us to shift?

5. Faithfulness and fruitfulness are shown by doing today well for God's glory.

The "little" we think we have is great in the hands of the Master.

"What is in your hand?" Offer it back to Jesus. What we do with what God entrusts to us changes the world. Little is much when God is in it. When compassion unites with capacity flourishing happens beyond our expectations. "What can we do Lord with what you have given us?"

Closing:

A good return on His investment is what He is looking for, use what we have (not just financially) been given from God for His glory.

QUESTIONS

1. What is one talent (skill or hobby) you had as a kid that you wish you had kept up with? One of the marks of Christian maturity is that we learn to root for each other. That is, genuine delight in one another's talents. Why is this so hard for us? How is this parable an antidote to jealousy?
2. Why do you think Jesus used money as the metaphor in this parable? How might that have impacted His original audience? What do you think the "talents" represent in our lives today? How does this influence how do we interpret the story?
3. The master gives "each according to his ability." What does that say about God's expectations of us? What would it look like this week to trust God more deeply with your talents, especially in ways that serve others or build His Kingdom?
4. Have you ever felt afraid of "messing up" something God gave you? What helped you move forward—or what is holding you back now? How can this parable help us prepare for Christ's return without becoming anxious or overly focused on performance?