



**Sermon Series:** Mysteries: The Greatest Stories Jesus Told, part 8

**Sermon Title:** Faithful Servant

**Speaker/ Date:** Christopher Carpio, October 25, 2020

### Matthew 25:14-30

Jesus is communicating a truth using a story but the story itself is not literal. Jesus isn't talking about money here, and he isn't talking about gifts. Jesus is talking about the Kingdom of Heaven. The Talents were actually large sums of money, and it would be like a gift to be entrusted with this money but the money itself was not a gift to keep.

**Big Idea:** Take every opportunity to serve the kingdom of God.

And here's three reasons why you should:

#### 1) The work of Christ is accomplished through you

The Talents are actually large sums of money or our abilities. We are currently living in the time of the Master's absence, and he has entrusted us with the most precious responsibility of his Mission to love, forgive and reconcile the world to himself the Gospel of Jesus Christ. **Acts 1:6-11**  
Paul writes **2 Corinthians 5:20**

Jesus entrusts us with the mission of spreading of his Good news, that he wants to be reconciled to an evil and fallen world. That he wants to love those of us who feel unlovable, to forgive those of us who feel unworthy of forgiveness.

#### 2) Serving Jesus' Kingdom brings you into the Joy of Christ

God entrust us with his work because he wants you to hear the words "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."

In this parable Jesus describes two different outcomes of either being a true mover of the Gospel or trying to hide the truth of the gospel. For this section we'll focus on the servants who chose to be faithful.

The good servants do the work of their master and in doing so reflect a fulfilled image of **Ephesians 2:10**

Their master had set before them a work to do in his absence because and they doubled the money that had been given to them. It's like when Jesus says in **John 14:12**. The master did the work to obtain the original amount of money that was given to the servants, now entrusting them to continue his work just like Jesus is with us. If this is you then you'll likely hear something like this from Christ when you meet Him face to face. **Matthew 25:33-36**

In the parable, the master gave some 5 some 2 some 1 talents. This symbolizes the opportunity in which each of us might have to share the Gospel. Some of us will have larger platforms to share Jesus' Gospel than others. But that doesn't mean that anyone of us is greater than the other. And more importantly that doesn't mean we can't grow those platforms.

It's up to us to surrender ourselves to be used for our purpose and regardless of what our value appears to be outwardly we are all inwardly being utilized for the same purpose "bringing glory to Christ our savior".

### 3) **Burying the Gospel is Burying yourself**

The false servant was someone who didn't see his master for who he was. Instead he made assumptions of his Master's character, and utilized that as an excuse to not continue the work of his master, even hoping that he might never return.

He inferred his master was angry, greedy, and unjust. Many people think that is who God is. Believing that God is a wrathful God just waiting for us to mess up. That his gospel is offensive because it calls us sinful and broken, that God is a lazy God because he's left us to continue his work, or that he's unjust because of all the evil in the world. It's because of these things some people never receive the gospel. Jesus tells us in **Matthew 25:41-46** what will happen to those who reject Him.

The reality is for every right choice there is a wrong choice. And just as there are rewards there are punishments.

Take every opportunity to build the kingdom of God so we may have the kingdom of God here as it is in heaven.

### Discussion Questions:

- What about the sermon stuck with you this week? What part challenged your thinking?
- Is it ever appropriate to NOT share the gospel with someone? Explain.
- The false servant viewed the master as angry, greedy, and unjust. Many people view God the same way. List 5 adjectives that describe God to you. In what ways do they impact your relationship with God?
- What helpful advice could you give to a Christian who is reluctant to share the gospel for fear of losing his or her friends?
- Matthew 25:23 tells us that Jesus will say to His faithful followers “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.” Is it acceptable to use that as the motivation to witness to others? Do you use it as motivation? Explain.
- Jesus entrusts His followers to share the gospel with a lost and fallen world. On a scale of 1 – 10 how are you at obeying that command? Explain