

## **SERMON NOTES AND SCRIPTURE**

### **Matthew 25:14–30**

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.’”

**Two things the unfaithful missed that the faithful did not:**

- 1. An unshakable trust in the master's goodness.**
- 2. An unwavering desire to share in the master's joy.**

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## **GROUP DISCUSSION**

**Read the passage of Scripture together as a group.**

**Jesus talked about money and possessions a lot. So why is this still such a difficult topic to talk about in church?**

**In Matthew 6:21 Jesus says, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Pastor Luke said this verse is inspiring, but that it still requires a leap of faith. Why is this true, even for Christians?**

**In the Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25:14–30), the servants' reward for investing well is being entrusted with more. Why is that such a big reward?**

**In your life, what do you think is the right balance among saving, spending and giving? How would you explain this to God?**

**Think about the money, resources, time and talents God has given you. What risks might he be calling you to take? What should you do about that this week?**

**What does the Parable of Talents reveal about the heart of God?**