

Group Study Guide

April 13-14, 2024

The Stories Jesus Told: The Bags of Gold

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MESSAGE NOTES:

1. Entrusted with Much

Matthew 25:14-18 - ¹⁴“Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. ¹⁵To 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. ¹⁶The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. ¹⁷So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. ¹⁸But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money.”

2. Accountable for All

Matthew 25:21, 23, 26-27 - “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!’ 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!’ 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.’”

STUDY GUIDE:

STEP ONE: Icebreaker (Optional):

- If you could go back in time and spend time with someone (invest in them) for an entire year, who would it be?

STEP TWO: Prayer & Scripture Reading

- Ask someone in your group to pray to open your time together.
- Ask another person to read **Matthew 25:14-30**.

STEP THREE: Discuss Questions

1. What was challenging, encouraging, confusing, or stood out most to you from this past weekend's teaching?
2. Parables are stories with spiritual significance. As a group, go through the parable and discuss the potential spiritual significance of each of the following elements:
 - a. The Master (v. 14)
 - b. The Servants (v. 14)
 - c. Bags of Gold (v. 15)
 - d. "Putting the money to work" (vv. 16-17)
 - e. "Hiding the Master's money" (v. 18)
 - f. The Master's reward/happiness (vv. 21 & 23)
 - g. The Servant's punishment (vv. 28-30)
3. After describing the amount of gold each servant receives, Jesus says that it was given "each according to their ability" (v.15). What do you think this means in the context of the parable? What do you think it means for us today?
4. What does it look like for us today to put God's gifts to work like the two obedient servants did? On the other hand, what does it look like for us today to hide God's gifts away like the disobedient servant?
5. What was the motivation behind the obedient servants' work? What was the motivation behind the disobedient servant's hiding? How does our belief in who God is impact our obedience?
6. The servant thought of the master as "a hard man" whom he should be "afraid" of. Do you think this is true of God? When you think of God, what emotions come to mind?
7. How does believing in the gospel empower us to work out our faith out of love for God? In what ways do you need to repent of "hiding" God's gifts in your life? What opportunities has he set before you to multiply His Kingdom?

STEP FOUR: Prayer

- Ask someone in your group to close in prayer.