



INTRODUCTION

Matthew 25:14-30

This parable is a great way for us to begin thinking about money and worldly possessions, what we're going to call "wealth" in this class. Using the parable as an outline, we'll consider the master and the servants and their stewardship.

THE MASTER: GOD

A. God Owns Everything

Matthew 22:15-22.

Psalm 24:1-2.

Deuteronomy 10:14.

God's ownership also means that He doesn't owe His creation anything. Job 41:11.

Acts 17:24-25

1 Timothy 4:5

1 Timothy 6

So bottom line: God owns everything. He owes nothing. All that he made is good—and that includes our wealth. The secret to managing money well is not to run away from it but to submit it to the lordship of Christ.

B. God Gives People Their Wealth

Gen. 1:28-30, 1 Cor. 4:7 This includes everything—family, education, spiritual gifts, job, church.

1 Chron. 29:12, 16.

1 John 3:17, God gives each his lot in life.



1 Sam. 2:7.

THE SERVANTS: MAN

A. We Don't Own What We Own!

John Piper's illustration in *Desiring God* about someone who comes into an art museum empty-handed.
Eccl. 5:15; 1 Tim. 6:7

B. We're Only Stewards of What We've Been Given

Luke 16:10-12

Genesis 1:26, 28-30; 2:15

Leviticus 25:23

Hebrews 11:13-16 and Philippians 3:20

POOR STEWARDSHIP: EVIDENCE OF NO FAITH

The faithful servants trusted their master's word and goodness; the unfaithful servant had faith in neither. This parable isn't about being a "good" or "mediocre" Christian—it's about the difference between heaven and hell.

FAITHFUL STEWARDSHIP: GLORIFYING GOD

A. The Faithful Servant's Motivation

Love 2 Cor. 8:9, Gal. 4:7

1 Peter 4:10



Judgment 2 Cor. 5:10, Gal. 6:7

B. God Sets the Terms For How We Use Wealth

Proverbs is full of this kind of counsel. Prov. 10:4; Prov. 8:18-19, 17:16; Prov. 22:4; Prov. 11:22, 16:3; Prov. 13:11; Prov. 13:21. Prov. 15:22); Prov. 23:1-2; Prov. 28:25.

By doing all of these things, Proverbs doesn't guarantee that you'll always gain wealth, but they are generally true predictions.

1 Corinthians 10:31

When we thank God for what we've received, we glorify God as the giver of all good things (Eph. 5:19).

When we give back the firstfruits, we glorify God as being trustworthy (Matt. 6:33).

When we're content with our wealth, we glorify God as being sufficient to meet our needs (Php. 4:12, 19-20).

When we use our wealth sacrificially to help others, we glorify God as being loving and merciful.

Gal. 6:6; 1 Cor. 9:9-14; Ephesians 4:28 and 2 Thessalonians 3:7-8

3 John 8; 1 John 3:17; 1 Tim. 5:8; Heb. 13:16; Luke 3:11; Psalm 37:26; Luke 6:35. There are many ways to glorify God with our wealth, and God gives us great liberty in this.

C. God Is Glorified When We Pursue Profitable Returns

1. Invest in real value today

2. Focus on the Future

3. Maximize Returns

CONCLUSION

The main message is that God owns everything—even what you think you own. When we really believe that and put it into practice:

1. It frees us from our circumstances.
2. It frees us from the idolatry of materialism.



3. It frees us to be generous.