



Connect Discussion Guide

08.15.21 Message | Chuck Sackett | Matthew 25:14-30

Key Scriptures:

“For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me five talents; here, I have made five talents more.’ His master said to him, ‘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.’ And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me two talents; here, I have made two talents more.’ His master said to him, ‘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.’ He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here, you have what is yours.’ But his master answered him, ‘You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’”

- Matthew 25:14-30

Message Highlights:

- Parables call for faithfulness as a primary characteristic of believers.
- There is a legitimate reason to be fearful if you’ve not been faithful.
- Faithfulness marks the lives of believers who live confidently hopeful of Jesus’ return.
- Faithful believers invest in others so that they, too, may be confidently expectant.

Conversation Starter:

Will you join or lead a Connect Group this fall? If you've been a part of a Connect Group in the past, share with your group the ways the group impacted you. If you haven't yet been a part of a Connect Group, share how you hope to see God move during this Connect session.

Discuss the Message:

1. Read Matthew 25:14-30; how does this parable encourage us to be ready, be faithful and be confident?
2. Discuss the scarcity mentality that is displayed in verse 18. Do you relate to this servant who "hid his master's money"? How does today's message on faithfulness encourage us to turn away from such a mentality?
3. In what ways have you been, or are you being, "faithful with a little" in your current season? Are you in a season where you are seeing the fruit from your faithfulness, feeling frustrated by God's silence or somewhere in between?
4. Do you have someone in your life who keeps you accountable in your faithfulness? If so, what does that relationship look like? If not, how might you develop such a relationship?
5. How would you summarize the call to faithfulness that is illustrated in this parable?
6. How might a Connect Group help you to invest in other believers so that they, too, may live confidently expectant of Christ's return?

Pray:

Father in Heaven, you have been so faithful to us! We desire to be faithful in return. Forgive us for the times we have allowed fear to direct our lives instead of faithfulness. Even when it seems that chaos and confusion reign, we know that you alone reign. We believe with full confidence that you will keep your promise to bring your Kingdom into this world. We know that you have entrusted us with the task of making way for your Kingdom. Help us to discern how we can be faithful in doing our part. We desire to be obedient to all that you have called us to. Amen.