

## FAITHFUL STEWARDS

The Christian life is all about the opportunities God gives us throughout our lives and what we do with them

What has God entrusted to us and are we faithful stewards of the gifts, talents, time, and resources placed in our lives?

My question for you to answer today: Are you faithful with what God has given you?

**Matt 25:14-30 NIV** “Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. <sup>15</sup> To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag,<sup>[a]</sup> each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. <sup>16</sup> The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. <sup>17</sup> So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. <sup>18</sup> But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money.

<sup>19</sup> “After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. <sup>20</sup> 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.’

<sup>21</sup> “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!’

<sup>22</sup> “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.’

<sup>23</sup> “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!’

<sup>24</sup> “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. <sup>25</sup> So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.’

**<sup>26</sup> “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? <sup>27</sup> 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.**

**<sup>28</sup> “So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. <sup>29</sup> 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. <sup>30</sup> And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’**

What is a talent? It’s our abilities, time, resources, gifts, and opportunities that we are to serve God with while we are here and until He returns

Everybody has been given something that we are to do something with. These are a trust God has given us the responsibility to administer faithfully

God has made you a manager of what He entrusted you with!

**Matt 25:14 “Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them**

In this parable Jesus is teaching us how to live our lives while awaiting His return

The Master represents Jesus, who has entrusted resources and abilities to us before leaving

The servants represent believers entrusted with talents

Everything belongs to God, we are stewards not owners!

Again, time, gifts, abilities, resources, treasure, salvation, the Holy Spirit, the gospel and spiritual gifts

Also, relational possession He has given to you as a gift to steward those relationships well

**1 Cor 6:19-20 Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; <sup>20</sup> you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.**

### v. 15-18

Talents are distributed according to ability, maybe not equal amounts, but equal expectation of faithfulness!

We must be faithful with what's been given to us

The one with 5 and 2 talents were faithful with what God gave them. Those who are wise will take what's given them and invest if for greater opportunities and harvest

Hear me this morning, faithfulness is always the goal, not output

Faithful service may not always attract applause from men, but it never goes unnoticed by Heaven

Faithful stewardship requires eagerness, risk, faith, and obedience

### v. 19

One day the Master will return and what you don't use you will lose

I hope you know today that when Jesus returns He's going to expect us to have increased what's been given to us

Talents are designed to be used, inactivity leads to loss

### v. 20-27

Our management will be closely evaluated

### v. 21

Those who put their talents to work heard these words, "Well done good and faithful servant. You have been faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things."

God looks at effort and faithfulness, not just what you produces

### v. 26,27

We might not like this parable but He shows us our effort reveals our heart!

Jesus said you did nothing with what I gave you, he said you wicked and lazy servant

Know this – there will be a day of reckoning one day

v. 23

God will reward faithful stewards/servants

v. 28

Not only did the faithful servants get greater rewards and opportunities, one received what the lazy servant was hiding

Our service to God is serious, so much so he said burying or hiding our talents results in judgment, even outer darkness

What has God entrusted to you that you're currently hiding?

Are you investing in His Kingdom or storing up?

God expects a return on His investment so be a faithful steward and be richly rewarded!

**Rev 22:12** – Read commentary

**“And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward *is* with Me, to give to every one according to his work.**