

"Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave five talents of money, to another two talents, and to another one talent, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. The man who had received the five talents went at once and put his money to work and gained five more. So also, the one with the two talents gained two more. But the man who had received the one talent went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. Matthew 25:14-18

Found Faithful

I know what you want to hear most of all at the end of your life. You do? **Yes, of course I do.** I know everything about you. I have my eye on you. I made you. You are the work of my hands. I hear everything that you think, say and do. I have molded and shaped your life. I have given you all that you are and all that you have. You don't have anything that isn't on loan from me. **So, yes, I know exactly what you want to hear at the end of your life.** Alright then, go ahead and tell me. Is this some sort of a test? **No, not at all.** I would love to hear you say what I've been thinking for quite some time. **Yes, I'm sure that you would.** **But, I think that you would benefit more by telling me what is on your mind.** Why is that? **Trust me on this. Tell me the thoughts that you've held for so long.**

First, let me say that you have my full agreement that everything I have is on loan from you. You'll get no argument there. **I'm glad to hear that.** Secondly, I know that you have made me and given me all the gifts, talents, and abilities that I have. **Yes, I have made and gifted you.** Finally, I'm sure that it is your intent that I use all the gifts, talents, and abilities to serve you. It would be a sin to let anything you have given to me to be unused and go to waste. **Yes, it would.** Beyond that, if I don't use all my gifts, talents, and abilities for your kingdom and glory, I and others will miss out on many blessings that were part of your plan. **Yes, not using the gifts, talents, and abilities that I have given to you would be a tremendous loss. You are correct on all the points you've just made.** **But, you're taking quite a bit of time getting around to the subject at hand.** What's that? **What you want to hear me say to you at the end of your life.** Alright then.

At the end of my life, I want to here you say, 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! **That sounds like something right out of my word.** It is. **Let me ask you something.** Go ahead. **Where do you think this desire that you have had in your heart for so long has come from?** I think it has come from you. You put that desire in my heart. **Yes, I did.** **How strong is that desire in you?** It burns like a fire in me. **Yes, I can see that it does.** **Do you believe that I will answer this prayer of your heart?** Yes Lord, I'm certain that you will. **Well then, you would certainly be right.** I am delighted to hear you say that. **I am delighted to hear you ask it. Now go, and do what I have given you to do for me.** Yes Lord, I will.

Lord, thank you for all that you have given to me. You have richly blessed me with gifts, talents, and abilities that I can use to serve you. Help me to be faithful to use all that you have given to me to do the work you want me to do. Amen

Parables*The Talents*

"Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave five talents of money, to another two talents, and to another one talent, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. The man who had received the five talents went at once and put his money to work and gained five more. So also, the one with the two talents gained two more. But the man who had received the one talent went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

NIV

Matthew 25:14-18

Parables*The Talents*

"Again, the Kingdom of Heaven can be illustrated by the story of a man going on a long trip. He called together his servants and entrusted his money to them while he was gone. He gave five bags of silver to one, two bags of silver to another, and one bag of silver to the last—dividing it in proportion to their abilities. He then left on his trip. "The servant who received the five bags of silver began to invest the money and earned five more. The servant with two bags of silver also went to work and earned two more. But the servant who received the one bag of silver dug a hole in the ground and hid the master's money.

NLT

Matthew 25:14-18

Parables*The Talents*

"For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

NRSV

Matthew 25:14-18

Parables*The Talents*

For it is like a man who was about to take a long journey, and he called his servants together and entrusted them with his property. To one he gave five talents [probably about \$5,000], to another two, to another one—to each in proportion to his own personal ability. Then he departed and left the country. He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he gained five talents more. And likewise he who had received the two talents—he also gained two talents more. But he who had received the one talent went and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

AMP

Matthew 25:14-18

Parables*The Tenants*

"For it is just like a man about to go on a journey, who called his own slaves and entrusted his possessions to them. "To one he gave five talents, to another, two, and to another, one, each according to his own ability; and he went on his journey. "Immediately the one who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and gained five more talents. "In the same manner the one who had received the two talents gained two more. "But he who received the one talent went away, and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

NASB

Matthew 25:14-18

Parables*The Talents*

"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.

ESV

Matthew 25:14-18

Parables*The Talents*

"For the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them. And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey. Then he who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents. And likewise he who had received two gained two more also. But he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and hid his lord's money.

NKJV

Matthew 25:14-18

Parables*The Talents*

Obsession with self in these matters is a dead end; attention to God leads us out into the open, into a spacious, free life. Focusing on the self is the opposite of focusing on God. Anyone completely absorbed in self ignores God, ends up thinking more about self than God. That person ignores who God is and what he is doing. And God isn't pleased at being ignored.

MSG

Matthew 25:14-18

Parables*The Talents*

"Again, the Kingdom of Heaven can be illustrated by the story of a man going into another country, who called together his servants and loaned them money to invest for him while he was gone. "He gave \$5,000 to one, \$2,000 to another, and \$1,000 to the last—dividing it in proportion to their abilities—and then left on his trip. The man who received the \$5,000 began immediately to buy and sell with it and soon earned another \$5,000. The man with \$2,000 went right to work, too, and earned another \$2,000. "But the man who received the \$1,000 dug a hole in the ground and hid the money for safekeeping.

TLB

Matthew 25:14-18

Parables*The Tenants*

"The kingdom of heaven is like a man who was going to another place for a visit. Before he left, he called for his servants and told them to take care of his things while he was gone. He gave one servant five bags of gold, another servant two bags of gold, and a third servant one bag of gold, to each one as much as he could handle. Then he left. The servant who got five bags went quickly to invest the money and earned five more bags. In the same way, the servant who had two bags invested them and earned two more. But the servant who got one bag went out and dug a hole in the ground and hid the master's money.

NCV

Matthew 25:14-18

The Talents

Year _____ Week _____ Day _____ Date _____

Parables – Matthew 25:14-18

In Context: *Read Matthew 25*

Begin With Prayer:

Here I am Lord. I Am Listening.

Meditating On God's Word: ***(What is God speaking to your heart?)***

"Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave five talents of money, to another two talents, and to another one talent, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. The man who had received the five talents went at once and put his money to work and gained five more. So also, the one with the two talents gained two more. But the man who had received the one talent went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. Matthew 25:14-18

Considering The Words: ***(What words speak to your heart?)***

"Again, | it will be like | a man | going on | a journey, | who called | his servants | and | entrusted | his property | to them. | To one | he gave | five talents | of money, | to another | two talents, | and | to another | one talent, | each according to | his ability. | Then | he went on | his journey. | The man | who had received | the five talents | went at once | and put | his money | to work | and | gained five more. | So also, | the one | with | the two talents | gained two more. | But the man | who had received | the one talent | went off, | dug a hole | in the ground | and | hid | his master's | money. Matthew 25:14-18

Praying The Scripture: ***(What prayer from your heart will you write?)***

Lord, thank you for all that you have given to me. You have richly blessed me with gifts, talents, and abilities that I can use to serve you. Help me to be faithful to use all that you have given to me to do the work you want me to do. Amen

What It Means: ***(What questions speak to your heart?)*** *(Suggested questions for small group discussion are in bold)*

Why is it important to be faithful to the Lord in even the very little things of life?

What are some examples of little things of life where the Lord wants you to be faithful?

What are the gifts, talents and resources that the Lord has given you to use for His glory?

How have you been able to discover and use your gifts, talents and abilities to serve the Lord?

Where is the Lord using your gifts, talents and resources to do the work that he has given you to do for Him?

Why is it important to not delay being engaged in using your gifts, talents and resources to serve the Lord?

How certain are you that the Lord will reward you for faithfully using your gifts, talents and resources to serve Him?

Living It Out: ***(What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)***

Ask the Lord to help to see how and where you can use all your gifts, talents, and resources to serve Him.

Seeing It Happen: ***(What are you trusting God for in your heart?)***

Have faith that the Lord will help you to discover and use all your gifts, talents and resources to serve Him.

Get Ready To Share: ***(What can you share with others from your heart?)***

Share with another person or your small group how you have been able to use all your gifts to serve the Lord.

Close With Prayer:

Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

Pause And Offer Prayers Of...

With An Attitude Of Faith Listen To What The Lord Wants To Say To You

Adoration... _____

Thanksgiving... _____

Confession... _____

Intercession... _____

Petition... _____

