

*"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 (NIV)*

## **Entrusted**

You have richly blessed my life. I know that you have entrusted me with gifts, talents and abilities. I know that it is not your purpose or plan that I would use all that you have given me to serve myself. You did not give me these gifts, talents and abilities so that I could make myself comfortable by living in pleasure. I am sure that you want me to use what you have given me to serve you. **What makes you sure of that?** I know that you want me to become like you. You want me to think and speak and act like you. You want me to live like you lived. You want me to give like you gave. You want me to serve like you served. You want me to love like you loved. You want me to go and do what you did. **What did I do?** You took on the form of a servant. You lived to please your Heavenly Father. You did whatever your Heavenly Father asked of you. You made it your goal to accomplish your Heavenly Father's purposes and fulfill His plans. **Yes, I did.**

**How will you serve me? How will you use the gifts and talents and abilities I have given to you? How will you accomplish my purposes and fulfill my plans?** Those are good questions. Those are questions I would like to ask you. Those are questions that I need you to help me to answer. I can only know the answers to those questions by listening carefully to you. I can only know and do your will by following you to where you lead me to do what you ask of me. That is what I will do. I will follow and obey you. I will rely on you to make me faithful. I will rely on you to make me fruitful. I will eagerly and joyfully and vigorously engage in the work that you set before me as I walk closely with you through life. Then one day, I know that I will be found faithful because, with your help, I will have done everything you have asked me to do for you. I will have born fruit for your kingdom and brought glory to your name. **Yes, you will and that will be very good.**

*Lord, I want to use all the gifts, talents and abilities you have given me to serve you. I don't want anything to be unused. I don't want anything to go to waste. Help me to use all you have given me to bear fruit for your kingdom and bring glory to your name. Amen*

## Becoming Like Christ

*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

## Becoming Like Christ

*Bags Of Silver*

"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

## Becoming Like Christ

*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

## Becoming Like Christ

*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

## Becoming Like Christ

*Talents*

"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

## Becoming Like Christ

*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

## Becoming Like Christ

*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

## Becoming Like Christ

*Five Thousand Dollars*

"It's also like a man going off on an extended trip. He called his servants together and delegated responsibilities. To one he gave five thousand dollars, to another two thousand, to a third one thousand, depending on their abilities. Then he left. Right off, the first servant went to work and doubled his master's investment. The second did the same. But the man with the single thousand dug a hole and carefully buried his master's money.

MSG

Matthew 25:14-18

## Becoming Like Christ

*5,000*

"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

## Becoming Like Christ

*Bags Of Gold*

"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

# Talents

Year \_\_\_\_\_ Week \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Becoming Like Christ** – 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 (NIV)

**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 (NIV)

**Praying The Scripture:**

***(What prayer from your heart will you write?)***

Lord, I want to use all the gifts, talents and abilities you have given me to serve you. I don't want anything to be unused. I don't want anything to go to waste. Help me to use all you have given me to bear fruit for your kingdom and bring glory to your name. Amen

**What It Means:**

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

**What gifts, talents and resources has God given to you?**

How are you using your gifts, talents and resources to serve God?

Why would it be a tragic mistake not to use your gifts, talents and resources to serve God?

How has using your gifts, talents and resources to serve God given meaning and purpose to your life?

**How has using your gifts, talents and resources to serve God born fruit for His kingdom?**

Why can you be sure that God will one day reward you for all the you have done for Him?

**How is God now calling you to use your gifts, talents and resources to serve Him?**

**Living It Out:**

***(What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)***

Use all your gifts, talents and resources to serve God so you can bear fruit for His kingdom.

**Seeing It Happen:**

***(What are you trusting God for in your heart?)***

Have faith that the Lord has given you gifts, talents and resources with which you can 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 are using your gifts, talents and resources to serve God.

**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... \_\_\_\_\_

**Journal**

*As You Quiet Yourself Before The Lord*

**What Do You Want To Say To Me Lord?**

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**What Prayers Are You Praying Today?**

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**Prayer Of Blessing**

*(What Prayer Of Blessing Can You Pray For Another?)*

*May you use the gifts, talents and resources you have been given to serve the Lord.*

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**Prayer To Carry**

*(What Prayer Would You Like To Carry Throughout Your Day?)*

*Lord, I will use the gifts, talents and resources I have been given to serve you.*

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**What Do You Want To Remember About Today?**

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**A Question To Ask God**

*(What Would You Like To Ask God?)*

*Lord, how can I use the gifts, talents and resources I have been given to serve you today?*

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