



**Matthew 25:14-30**  
**New International Version**  
**Parable of the Talents**

<sup>14</sup>“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.’

The Parable asks **“What do you believe God is like?”**



# Sermon Notes

## PARABLES: GLIMPSES OF A NEW REALITY

**Entrusted:** *God has Faith in us, but do you have faith in God?*

God has entrusted you with a **MESSAGE**

God has entrusted you with a **MISSION**

God has entrusted you with the **MEANS**

“[We] have been entrusted with the very words of God.” Romans 3:2  
 “We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us.” 2 Corinthians 5:20

**Risk and Reward: enthusiastic & energetic**

“Went at once... to work...” Why? You **ENTRUSTED** me.

**Fear and Hiding: Dread & Delay**

You neither lived by taking a **risk** nor did you live **prudently**.  
 Instead, You lived **fearfully**.

“There is only one thing that makes a dream impossible to achieve: the fear of failure.” Paulo Coelho

## TAKING A RISK

**RIGHT** view of God – “for God so love the world...” Jn 3:16

**IDENTITY** in Christ – where does our actual value come from?

**STRATEGY**—what are you hoping to achieve, Begin with the End

**KINGDOM** focus – what is the new reality God Promises?

# LIVING WORD

## *The Parable of the Talents*

The master expected the servants to continue his business, to take risks to make a profit, and to emulate his behavior. Two servants were found faithful, and they are rewarded. Their faithfulness had increased the master's wealth and expanded his estate.

In its literary setting, Jesus tells this story to his disciples (24:3) to prepare them for the days ahead when their faith will be tested. This parable depicts how the disciples are to demonstrate their faithfulness as they anticipate the return of the Lord.

What does faithfulness look like in a time of waiting? In Matthew's Gospel faithfulness is emulating the ministry of Jesus. Jesus has announced the arrival of God's kingdom by feeding the hungry, curing the sick, blessing the meek, and serving the least.

All who would follow Jesus are to preach the good news of the kingdom to the whole world (24:14) by going about the work that the master has called them to do (24:24-51). This work includes visiting the sick and imprisoned, clothing the naked, welcoming the stranger, and feeding the hungry (25:31-46). Those who are found faithful may hear their Master say, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

- A talent was a vast sum of money. In the parable of the talents, what were the master's expectations of his servants (vv. 14-30)?

### **Applying the Word**

- What resources and responsibilities has Jesus given you?
- How can you handle them in a good and faithful manner?

Anonymous

*Remember this:* God may not do what you want, but he will do what is right ... and best. He's the Father of forward motion. **Trust him**, know him and He will get you home. And the trials of the trip will be lost in the joys of the feast. (Max Lucado)

"A man who denies his past is a man who truly denies himself a future, for he refuses to know himself, and to deny knowledge of oneself is to stumble through life as handicapped as the blind mute." — Tobsha Learner, *The Witch of Cologne*

"God gives us just enough to seek him, and never enough to fully find Him. To do more would inhibit our freedom, and our freedom is very dear to God." — Ron Hansen

No guilt in life, no fear in death,  
This is the power of Christ in me;

"The Christian has a great advantage over other men, not by being less fallen than they, nor less doomed to live in a fallen world, but by knowing that he is a fallen man in a fallen world." — C. S. Lewis

"If you find God with ease, perhaps it is not God you have found." — Thomas Merton