



## **MATTHEW 25:14-30**

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**PRAY:** Thank God for His gifts and ask how to invest them wisely in His kingdom.

**REST:** Think about and write down what God has given you and how you use it for Him.

**READ:** Through the section once. Try to set aside any teachings you may have heard on this section before and read it again, looking for how God may want you to apply this parable to your own life. Read it a third time, pausing to reflect on any particular sections that are convicting or encouraging to you.

*Consider & Respond to these questions:*

How does this parable reflect the values and character of Jesus?

What does this mean for your life? How can you align yourself with what Jesus was teaching?

How does this change the way you see investing in the Kingdom?

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### QUESTIONS FROM SUNDAY

*Reflecting on this Sunday's teaching, respond to these questions:*

Describe your current thoughts around work and rest as they relate to God and His mission.

Think through your week and write out where you spend your time. What portions of time are currently given to Jesus? What portions of time could be given to Jesus if your mindset were to change? What time needs to be redeemed?

Thinking through the list of gifts given to the church (Rom. 12:4-8, 1 Cor. 12:27-31, and Eph. 4:11-12), in what ways have you been given as a gift to your church body and those outside the body?

In what ways are you stewarding the treasure the Master has given you?

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### FOR FURTHER STUDY

Although “talent” as it is used in this parable means a unit of measurement (it could easily be replaced with “balance” or “sum”), it is curious to consider the meaning of talent in English, a double meaning of which God is fully aware. When we consider all that we have been given, from something grand and widespread like salvation, to specific and smaller gifts like our own individual talents, finances, time, and gifts, Jesus is asking His disciples to consider what they have done and are doing with what they have been given. These things are not for burying and holding onto until Jesus takes us to be with Him; they are for investing, for using to expand His kingdom. We have even more cause than the servants in this parable, for where they may have been “afraid” of their “hard” master, we have a Savior who has done everything for us—more than and the opposite of what we deserve—and our gratitude should drive us to risk all for His glory.

**Gifts from God:** Deuteronomy 11:13-15; Job 32:8; Psalm 145:15-16; Ecclesiastes 2:26; Isaiah 50:4-7; Ezekiel 11:19-20; Luke 11:9-13; John 10:27-29, 14:26-28; Romans 12:3-8; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11; 2 Timothy 1:6-7; James 1:5&17

**Treasure:** Psalm 37:16, 39:4-7; Proverbs 8:12-21; Jeremiah 17:7-11; Matthew 6:19-24; Luke 16:1-15, 16:19-31; 2 Corinthians 8:9; 1 Timothy 6:6-10, 6:17-19; Hebrews 11:24-27; James 2:5, 5:1-6; Revelation 3:15-20

*As you read, some questions to think about and respond to are:*

What kind of gifts does God give, and what does He expect to be done with them?

While Jesus certainly meant more than just financial investment in this parable, money is also a gift from Him to be used for His kingdom—how can we, who comparatively have so much, use it for eternity rather than our current comfort? Try to think outside the box of your answer to the questions from Sunday.

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**TO MEMORIZE: MATTHEW 25:21**

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