

Life Group #7: The Parable of the Talents
Matthew 25:14-30

Objectives: We want to understand how we should live while we wait for the coming Kingdom and our King. We want students to understand that everything they have is God's and that we are just stewards. We want to practically begin to use our time, talents, treasures, and training for our King.

Note to leaders- we want to get practical with this study so please leave time for application. We want to allow students to identify the time, talents and treasure the Lord has entrusted to them and begin to think about how to steward it well.

Explore

Tonight we are going to look at a parable of Jesus that was shared with his disciples right before he was arrested. The context of our passage is that Jesus is having a private teaching with his disciples (Matthew 24-25). He was telling them that he was leaving and that no one knew when he would return (24:36, 42, 44, 50, 25:13). He does not describe what the coming Kingdom will be like. Rather he describes the character of those who are waiting for his return and the coming Kingdom.

Read Matthew 25:14-30

- **What is the situation described in the parable?** *(A man goes on a journey and entrusts his property to his servants)*
- **What are some things you observe in verse 14?** *(It is the master's property, He is leaving but plans to come back, he entrusts his property to the servants).*
- **What is a talent?** *(a way of measuring money. We can think of it as a big bag of gold. 1 talent was worth around 20 years of wages)*
- **What do you think it means that "he distributed the talents according to their ability"?** *(The master knew each servant, their individual ability and what they could handle; since he knew them he was not giving them too great of a task)*
- **What did the master expect them to do with his assets? How do you know?** *(he expected them to improve his assets because he asked them about it when he got home and was angry at the one who did not do this)*

- **What was the difference in the way he responded to the servants with the 5 and 2 talents?** *(There is no difference)*
- **What was their reward?**
- **What did the third servant do wrong?** *(he did not do what was required which was to improve his masters assets. He was apathetic and passive)*
- **Why did he act this way?** *(he had a wrong view of the master and his task. He thought the master was too hard and that he could not accomplish the task)*

Apply (20 minutes)

- **How does this passage apply to us today?** *(We need to live as faithful servants who have been entrusted with something very valuable. We need to be good stewards of what God has given us by investing in eternal things.)*
- **What are some practical ways we can do this?** *[there are many ways! A few from the immediate context: proclaim the gospel to the nations (24:14); live as if he is returning tonight; interact with people as if you were interacting with Jesus (25:40)]*
- Each of us have been entrusted with 3 things to steward while we are on earth- our time, our talent (skills/abilities) and our treasure (money and stuff). **Use the quarter sheet** to write out what you have been entrusted with.
- Have each person share something that the Lord has entrusted to them.
- **What is one step you can take this week in order to be a good steward of what God has entrusted to you?**
- **Pray**

Announce

What has God entrusted to you?

Time:

Talents:

Treasure:

What has God entrusted to you?

Time:

Talents:

Treasure:

What has God entrusted to you?

Time:

Talents:

Treasure:

What has God entrusted to you?

Time:

Talents:

Treasure: