

SERMON NOTES | Matthew 25:14-30 (NLT) Written by Sally Henien

God Entrusts (Stewardship): God's Mission. Our Purpose.

This week, we continue in our *Reformed & Reforming* Series and explored the topic **God Entrusts (Stewardship)**. Throughout Scripture, we see a God who not only creates and redeems His people but graciously invites them to participate in His mission. From my own experience serving in Ethiopia as a teenager, to searching for purpose in college, to witnessing Pastor Derlin's incredible testimony in Nicaragua, it was clear that: stewardship is not about how much we have—it is about recognizing that everything comes from God and we are entrusted to steward it for His glory.

Looking at Jesus' Parable of the Talents in [Matthew 25:14-30](#), we discover that Jesus wasn't primarily teaching about money. He was preparing His disciples to live faithfully while they waited for His return. The question wasn't simply, "What have you been given?" but rather, "How are you faithfully using what God has placed in your hands?"

Everything in the parable begins with the Master. What God creates, He owns. Before there were careers, retirement accounts, families, or ministries, there was God—the Creator of heaven and earth. Because He created everything, everything ultimately belongs to Him ([Psalm 24:1](#)).

Reflect: ([Deut. 10:17a](#), [Psalm 24:1](#))

Why is God's ownership the foundation of stewardship? How does believing "everything belongs to God" change the way we think about our possessions, careers, or families? Why should gratitude be the proper response to God's ownership?

Because of His grace and mercy, what God owns, He entrusts. In Matthew 25, we see that the master entrusted His servants with His resources. God, too, entrusts His people with gifts, opportunities, relationships, influence, and even His gospel. Like we saw this Sunday, this is not a new concept being introduced by Jesus in the parable, but God continually invites ordinary people—Moses, Mary, Peter, and many others—to participate in the Great Commission. He doesn't need us, but in His grace, He delights to include us in what He is already doing.

Reflect: ([Genesis 2:15](#), [Matthew 28:18-20](#), [1 Peter 4:10-11](#))

Why do you think God chooses to work through ordinary people? Which biblical example from Sunday's sermon encouraged you most (Moses, Mary, Peter, Pastor Derlin)? What has God entrusted to you in this season? (time, resources, talents, relationships, influence, etc.)

Finally, what God entrusts, He calls us to steward. The first two servants were not praised by the master because they had more than others; they were praised because they were faithful. Jesus reminds us that God's measure of success is not comparison or achievement but faithfulness. The third servant, however, was not found faithful. It does not seem to be a lack of ability but a misunderstanding of the master's character. Fear kept him from faithfully stewarding what had been entrusted to him. Could this be true for us, too? How we view God shapes how we live. When we know Him as gracious, generous, and faithful, we are freed to live courageously for His Kingdom rather than holding on tightly to our own.

Reflect: ([Psalm 56:3-4](#), [Isaiah 41:10](#), [1 Corinthians 4:1-2](#), [Colossians 3:23-24](#))

Why does Jesus praise faithfulness instead of results? How does our culture define success differently than Jesus? Where are you tempted to compare yourself to others? What false views of God can keep us from serving Him? How does fear affect stewardship? How does knowing God's grace free us to take risks for His Kingdom?

The good news is that even when we have failed as stewards, Jesus has not. The Father entrusted Him with the work of redemption, and He fulfilled it perfectly. Through His life, death, and resurrection, our failures are forgiven, and through the Holy Spirit, we are empowered to faithfully steward everything God places in our hands.

As we closed, we were reminded that wherever God has placed us—whether as students, parents, business leaders, retirees, missionaries, or neighbors—He has entrusted us with His mission. Let's continue to focus on Him rather than our success, accomplishments, or influence. And may we, one day, hear the words every follower of Christ longs to hear:

"Well done, good and faithful servant... enter into the joy of your Master." ([Matthew 25:21](#))

What God Creates, He Owns. What God Owns, He Entrusts for His Mission. What God Entrusts, He Calls and Equips us to Steward.

Sun, Aug 2, 2026



Online Giving [give.mdpc.org](#)



All Events [events.mdpc.org](#)

MAM Back to School Drive

Sun, Aug 2-23

Your donations will allow local parents to shop for uniforms and other school essentials so their children can begin the new school year ready to thrive! Learn more or donate: [mambts.mdpc.org](#)

Men's Night at HRC

Tue, Aug 4 | 6:30-9pm | Houston Racquet Club

Men, invite your buddies to join us for another fun night out, with Astros on the big screen, Tex-Mex, beer, and great fellowship. Come be part of the excitement! \$20/person includes food and drink. Registration: [mensnight.mdpc.org](#)

Transforming Grief

Wed, Aug 19-Oct 7 | 4-5:30pm

Join others in an 8-week program based on the curriculum Walking the Mourner's Path. Group size is limited to 10. Trained facilitators guide the group. Learn more and register: [grief.mdpc.org](#)

Dad's Pickleball Social

Sat, Aug 22 | 8-11:30am | MDPC Courts

Kick off the fall with a relaxed morning of pickleball, connection, and fun. This low-key hangout is a great chance to meet other dads in a similar stage of life, enjoy some friendly games, and start building new friendships: [social.mdpc.org](#)

Word and Worship

Weekly, Sep 2026-Feb 2027

Grow deeper in your faith through the book of Daniel. It contains some of the stories we are most familiar with, but also many others that are often neglected - this study will cover all of them! Many day and time options for groups. Learn more and register: [wandw.mdpc.org](#)

Ladies Bingo Night

Thu, Sep 10 | 5:30-8:30pm | MDPC

Get ready for a night of fun, laughter, and connection with women of all ages at MDPC! Unwind, meet new friends, and enjoy 10 exciting rounds of bingo—complete with great prizes and a grand prize finale: [bingo.mdpc.org](#)

Youth Confirmation Retreat/Classes

Sundays, Sep 20-Nov 8 | 9:45am | MS Room

Confirmation is available to rising students in grades 9-12 who are prepared to declare their faith in Jesus and join MDPC as members. It is a chance for students to understand the basic beliefs of the Christian faith, engage in discussions, and ask questions. The Confirmation Retreat is Sep 11-13 at Camp Cho Yeh. Learn more at [youth.mdpc.org](#).

MomCo: Good Company

Every other Thu, Sep 10-Apr 29 | 9:30-11:30am

Calling all moms looking for community, encouragement, and a sense of belonging! Whether you're navigating diapers, school drop-offs, or somewhere in between, you'll find women who understand. Plus, enjoy free childcare while you connect, laugh, and recharge: [momco.mdpc.org](#)

Men's Life: Finding Your True Identity

Tue, Sep 15-Nov 17 | 6:30-7:45am

In Men's Life 2026, we'll discover who you already are in Christ and learn to live from the identity God has given you—not the one the world tries to assign. Learn more and register: [ml.mdpc.org](#)

ECO Theological Conference

Mon-Wed, Sep 21-23 | MDPC

What if some of Christianity's oldest errors are still shaping our thinking today? Join students of the faith from across the nation for engaging presentations that connect the past with the present. Details and registration: [theologyconf.mdpc.org](#)



As you enter worship, we kindly ask that you silence your cell phones.



8:30 BLENDED SERVICE

GATHERING

Call to Worship	Paul Ehrsam
*Songs of Praise	<i>O Worship the King In Christ Alone</i>
Confession & Assurance	Beth Case
Song of Response	<i>How Great Thou Art</i>
Prayer	Beth Case
Worship Song	<i>Who Else</i>

HEARING THE WORD

Message	R&R: Reformed and Reforming Matthew 25:14-30	Sally Henien
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RESPONDING

Communion	Rachel Poysky
<i>All who confess their faith in Christ are welcome to The Lord's Table.</i>	
Communion Meditation	<i>The Lord Will Provide</i>

SENDING

*Benediction	Sally Henien
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9:45 CONTEMPORARY SERVICE

GATHERING

Call to Worship	Michael Middleton
*Songs of Praise	<i>Freedom in This House King of Kings</i>
Confession & Assurance	Luke Funderburk
Song of Response	<i>How Great Thou Art</i>
Welcome	Amanda Shockley
Worship Song	<i>Who Else</i>

HEARING THE WORD

Message	R&R: Reformed and Reforming Matthew 25:14-30	Sally Henien
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RESPONDING

Communion	Rachel Poysky
<i>All who confess their faith in Christ are welcome to The Lord's Table.</i>	
Communion Meditation	<i>The Lord Will Provide</i>

SENDING

*Benediction	Sally Henien
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Blended and Contemporary Worship Leaders
Coppelia Acevedo, Uvaldo Callejas, David Cavazos, Asher Pudlo, Will Story
Michael Middleton, Generational Worship Director

11:15 TRADITIONAL SERVICE

GATHERING

Prelude	<i>Choral in E Major</i>	César Franck (1822-1890)
Call to Worship		Paul Ehrsam
Choral Introit	<i>Go Not Far from Me, O God</i>	Nicola A. Zingarelli (1752-1837)
*Hymn of Praise	<i>Love Divine, All Loves Excelling</i> Vs. 1, 2, 4	#376 HYFRYDOL
*Confession and Assurance of Pardon		Beth Case
*Affirmation of Faith from The Heidelberg Catechism		
*Congregational Response	<i>Glory Be to the Father</i>	#579 GLORIA PATRI

HEARING THE WORD

Anthem of Preparation	<i>God Whose Giving Knows No Ending</i>	David Cherwien (b. 1957)
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RESPONDING

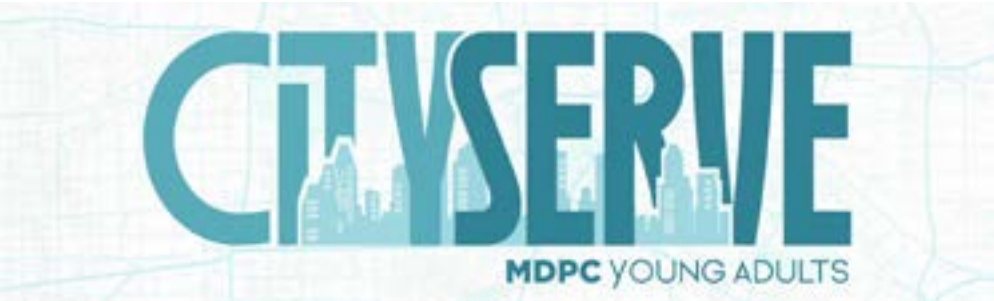
*Hymn of Response	<i>Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples</i> Vs. 1	#434 KINGSFOLD
Communion		Rachel Poysky
<i>All who confess their faith in Christ are welcome to The Lord's Table.</i>		
Communion Anthem	<i>Ave Verum Corpus</i>	William Byrd (b. 1957)
Organ Solo	<i>Chanson</i>	Douglas Wagner (b. 1952)

SENDING

*Doxology	<i>Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow</i>	#592 OLD 100TH
*Benediction		Sally Henien
Postlude	<i>March Pontificale</i>	William Stickles (1882-1971)

Traditional Worship Leaders
Choral Ensemble | Kathryn White, organist/pianist
Charles Hausmann, Traditional Worship Director

*Please stand, if comfortable.



New to the city? Looking for friends, faith, or a meaningful connection? You're not alone! CityServe is a monthly gathering for young adults in their 20s and 30s who want to show up for their city, build genuine friendships, and explore new corners of Houston together. We'll serve side by side, then grab lunch at a local spot to keep the conversation going and deepen connections.

UPCOMING PROJECT: Sat, Aug 8 | 9:30am-12pm • Santa Maria Hostel
Santa Maria Hostel is one of Texas' largest multi-site residential and outpatient substance use disorder treatment centers for women. Join us for landscaping and organizing their resource closet as well as crafts and activities with the kids. Visit cityserve.mdpc.org to register.

Financial Update as of July 19, 2026	Births and Deaths
2026 Annual Budget	\$ 14,728,728
Actual Income to Date	7,311,548
Needed to Meet 2026 Budget	7,417,180
	Bob Lehman passed away July 16.
	Gwen Lillioth passed away July 21.
	More information at memorials.mdpc.org .