

Week of November 15, 2020

Matthew 25:14-30

¹⁴ "For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them;

¹⁵ to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away.

¹⁶ The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents.

¹⁷ In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents.

¹⁸ But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

¹⁹ After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them.

²⁰ Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.'

²¹ His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.'

²² And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.'

²³ His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.'

²⁴ Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed;

²⁵ so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.'

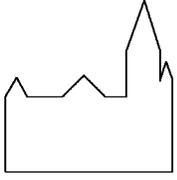
²⁶ But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter?

²⁷ Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest.

²⁸ So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents.

²⁹ For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away.

³⁰ As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'



Group Leader

Remember: you don't need to use all of the questions. Go with what works. Give people a chance to think before answering, but if a question falls flat, move on. Let the discussion go where it needs to go, as long as it remains centered around the lesson. Give the participants page 1. Use this page for yourself.

Gathering questions:

- A. What is the best idea for solving a problem that you ever had?
- B. What do people say you are good at but you don't think you're very good at it?

Bible Study Questions:

1. In verse 15, when it refers to each slave's "ability", what do you imagine "ability" is in the context of faith?
2. In verses 24-25 when the "worthless" slave accuses the master of being a "harsh man", do you think he really believes this of the master, or is he just making excuses?
3. What do you imagine being put "in charge of many things" means in terms of the kingdom of God?
4. What does verse 29 mean to you?
5. What are the "talents" God has given you? What have you done with them?
6. Has fear ever stopped you from doing something positive? Is there something positive that you are considering doing, but fear is getting in the way?
7. What can you do to be more productive with what God has given you?

Closing prayer: particularly invite prayers about ways in which each person can take action on an idea