



**Matthew 25:14-30**, *“For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property...”*

### KEY TERMS AND CHARACTERS IN THE STORY

- ✳ **It will be like** | the word “it” refers back to the previous parable where Jesus begins to teach about what the kingdom of heaven will be like.
- ✳ **A man going on a journey** | He is called the master 9 times in the story, He is extremely wealthy with a lot of property and servants, and returns after a long journey to settle accounts.
- ✳ **The Servants** | these are who the Master entrusts His property to. They are given differing amounts of property based on their God-given abilities.
- ✳ **A Talent** | is a unit of measurement used for money equivalent to about 75 pounds of either silver or gold coins—if it’s silver this amounts to around 6000 denarii, one denarii was equivalent to about 1 day’s wage...NIV translates talent as a “bag of gold”, which would make it even that much more valuable.

## 1. \_\_\_\_\_ IS ENTRUSTED

**Matthew 25:14-15**, *For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away.*

**Daniel 5:23b**, *You praised the gods of silver and gold, of bronze, iron, wood and stone, which cannot see or hear or understand. But you did not honor the God who holds in his hand your life and all your ways.*

- ✳ Everything we have is on loan to us from God—our life, breath, personality, money, relationships, special abilities, spiritual gifts, etc.

### DIFFERING AMOUNTS

- ✳ Each servant is entrusted by God with different “talents”.
- ✳ Each amount is determined and based on God-given abilities.

### ENTRUSTED WITH “TALENTS”

- ✳ The Master’s wealth is neither an inheritance or a transfer of property.
- ✳ The Master is entrusting these talents with an expectation that the servants are faithful (good stewards) with the Master’s property.

## 2. TWO KINDS OF

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**Matthew 25:16-18**, *The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.*

### Faithful Servants: (true servants)

**Matthew 25:19-21**, *Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here, I have made five talents more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.'*

- ✳ **Went at once** | they received the talents, knew what was expected, and got to work immediately.
- ✳ Reward to the faithful: praised for a job well done as good and faithful servants, they are put in charge of many things, and welcomed into the joy of the Master.
- ✳ Both the 5 and 2 servants received exactly the same reward from the Master (see verses 21 and 23). The reward from the Lord is not based on results or quantity, but according to faithfulness.

### Unfaithful Servants: (false servants)

**Matthew 25:24-25**, *He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here, you have what is yours.'*

**Matthew 25:28-30**, *So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.*

- ✳ This servant did nothing with his talent...he is called wicked, lazy, and worthless.
- ✳ Punishment for the unfaithful: talent is taken away, cast out of the household and into the darkness, away from the joy, work, and presence of the master.
- ✳ This servant (false servant) does not fit into the same category as the other two (true servants).
- ✳ The false servant calls the Master hard and that He demands a lot. He is scared of the Master and even blames the Master for what he did.

## 3. BEING --- SERVANTS

### How can we be faithful with what God has entrusted?

- **A faithful servant must be a true servant**—this is about who we are, not what we do. (Ephesians 2:8-10, Romans 11:6, 2 Timothy 1:9)
- **A true servant identifies what their “bags of gold” are**—can look like a simple and regular accounting of what God has provided. (Ephesians 1:7-14, Colossians 2, 2 Peter 1:3)
- **A true servant will fall in love with the Master**—as we fall in love with Jesus, we are moved supernaturally to “go at once” to please the Master and honor Him. (Ephesians 3:17-19, John 15:9, John 14:15)
- **A true servant will serve the Master**—those who've had the generous love of God poured into their hearts respond by being generous with that love. (Matthew 25:31-46)