



Faithful Stewardship: The Parable of the Talents

Matthew 25:14-30 5.3.26

Big idea: The Parable of the Talents teaches that we are stewards, called to actively use every resource and gift God has entrusted to us in service to Him.

1. **All we have is entrusted, not owned. v. 14**

- a. God's good gifts: our time, resources, opportunities, abilities, and gifts are not ultimately ours. When properly viewed, this truth should create gratitude to God for what we have and an urgency to make the most of it.

-Job 41:11 *Who has preceded Me, that I should pay him? Everything under heaven is Mine.*

-Deuteronomy 10:14 *Indeed heaven and the highest heavens belong to the Lord your God, also the earth with all that is in it.*

-1 Corinthians 6:19-20 *Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? ²⁰For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.*

-1 Corinthians 4:7 *For who makes you differ from another? And what do you have that you did not receive? Now if you did indeed receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it?*

2. **Faithfulness is measured by my actions. vv. 21, 23**

- a. Intentional effort is required...The problem wasn't a lack of results, but a lack of effort; the servant was found unfaithful because he refused to engage in the master's work.

-Matthew 5:16 *Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.*

-Colossians 3:17 *And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.*

-1 John 3:18 *My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.*

-James 1:22 *But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.*

-James 2:14-17 *What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? ¹⁵If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, ¹⁶and one of you says to them, "Depart in peace, be warmed and filled," but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit? ¹⁷**Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.***

3. **Our view of God is revealed by our use of what He's given to us. vv. 24-25**

- a. Theology drives behavior; what we believe about God affects how we live.
- b. A wrong view of God leads to improper service to Him...and it can come at the cost of our souls.

-Deuteronomy 7:9 *Therefore know that the Lord your God, He is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments*

-Jeremiah 9:24 *But let him who glories glory in this, That he understands and knows Me, That I am the Lord, exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight," says the Lord.*

-Hebrews 13:8 *Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.*

4. **There is a real and certain day of accountability, where we will all answer for how we have stewarded what God has given us. vv.26-30**

- a. Saving faith produces a serving life that is both expectant and ready for Christ's return...His coming is not a scare tactic to force us into obedience and service, but a joyful expectation that compels us to labor faithfully with what He has placed in our hands, so that we may be found ready when He returns.

-1 John 4:17 *Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world*

-1 John 2:28 *And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming.*

-Hebrews 9:28 *So Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.*

-Titus 2:11-14 *For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, ¹²teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, ¹³looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.*

Upcoming Events:

Sunday, May 10 - Mother's Day - during our 9:15 service on 5.10, all women and teen girls will meet in the gym for our Heart2Heart brunch, with special speaker, Heather Linville. All men and teen guys will meet in the chapel for donuts, coffee, and a special service!

Sunday, May 31 - Pastries with the Pastors - during our 9:15 service on 5.31, we will meet at the Pavilion to enjoy donuts and coffee with our pastors!