

WEEKLY WORSHIP GUIDE

Matthew 25:14-30--March 9th, 2025



Sermon Recap:

Supporting the Mission

Parable: an earthly story with a heavenly meaning.

Main Point: Faithfulness produces fruitfulness.

I. A Challenge for Stewardship

V.14-15

- The master called his own servants. This people belonged to him.
- He entrusted them- the resources they had were given to them by the master. The Lord has given us time, talents, and treasures.
- The resources he gave belonged to him. He entrusted his possessions.
- The amount of the resources given were enormous. A "talent" was a measure of weight. If this was gold or silver, a single talent was equal to 10,000 days wages for a common laborer.
- The master does not distribute resources equally. He gives each according to their ability.

Christ has entrusted His church with time, talents, and treasures to fulfill the mission; to make disciples.

II. A Steward's Response

V. 16-18

A steward was a person in the ancient world who did not own the family wealth or property but was given charge over these things to make sure that everything operated properly.

- The Lord has given you resources; time, talent, and treasure. And the more diligent you are with those resources...the more faithful you are in using them, the more fruitful you will be in the mission the Lord has given you.
- The first two servants used the resources wisely, investing them, and yielding a 100% return for their master.
- The third servant. did nothing. He literally buried the talent that was given to him.

III. Settling Accounts

V.19-23

- The master sees the results of the wisdom and work of the first two and says, "Well done good and faithful servant..."
 - "You have been faithful over a little..."- These talents were a lifetime of wealth, but to the Master they are very little.
 - "I will set you over much."- The Lord will reward the faithful service of his people.
- The third man says, "I know you are a hard man. You reap where you do not sow."
 - "You buy the fields, you hire the workers, and you benefit from the work of others."
 - "I do not believe that you are good. I do believe that you can be trusted. I will trust myself instead."
 - "You wicked and lazy servant"- his wickedness is displayed in his laziness.
 - You can work and not be a good steward, but you can't be a good steward without working.

If you want to be productive, if you want to be fruitful, you have to work. Jesus is telling us that wisdom, diligence, and faithfulness with what he has given us in his absence is how we will be judged by him when he returns.

Discussion Questions:

- What is a parable?
- What is the main point of the parable of the talents?
- What is a steward?
- What is the challenge given to the stewards?
- What resources are given to the Church today?
- How is the wisdom and devotion of the first two displayed?
- What do the actions of the third man reveal about his heart?
- How do our works display our faith?
- If the Church wants to be fruitful, what must we do today?
- How is stewardship a spiritual discipline?

Application:

- How much time do you spend making disciples?
- How do you devote your talents to making disciples?
- How do you designate your treasures to making disciples?
- Are their idols in your life that are keeping you from using your resources to fulfill your mission?
- How you sharpen and strengthen the discipline of stewardship?
- What does your giving say about your faith?

Family Worship Hymns:

- Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing
- All I Have is Christ

