



Main Passage: Matthew 25:14-30

Theological Theme

God has entrusted believers with gifts and resources He expects us to use for His glory and to further His kingdom.

Introduction

- ? What might contribute to people claiming to believe Jesus will return but that supposed belief having no impact on their daily lives? What might this reveal about how they've misunderstood Jesus?
- ? Based on the amount of attention the Bible gives to the return of Jesus, how much attention should we give this promise? How would your life look different if you remembered this truth each day?

1. The Assignment (Matthew 25:14-15)

Jesus often used parables to teach spiritual lessons. This parable of the talents is another Jesus used to teach about His second coming and the importance of being watchful and prepared for His return. This parable focused on the way people use what God has entrusted to them.

- ? How have all Christians been given resources to use for God's sake? Why is this more important than any amount of money we might receive stewardship of?
- ? Why is unwise to compare what you have been given with what others receive? How are we prone to this in the church?
- ? Application: What has God given you to use for His glory and to further the gospel?

2. The Strategy (Matthew 25:16-18)

The three men showed their commitment to the master's priorities "immediately" (v. 15). We don't know anything about the three men previously; Jesus didn't include their histories in the story because their histories didn't matter. After receiving the talents, two of them determined to spend their time devoted to their master's priorities, and one of them did not.

- ? What does it say to you that the first two servants got to work immediately in response to the master's wishes?
- ? How does the seriousness with which treat a task relate to the level of urgency we show in completing a task?
- ? Application: Where might you have failed to use the resources God has given you to honor Him? What opportunity is there to change this today?

3. The Master Returns (Matthew 25:19-30)

“After a long time” the master returned (v. 19). The exact moment of the Lord’s return is not the most important detail but the fact that the Lord’s return is certain. His servants should be watching and preparing for His return even as they continue the work He left for them. Because of the lengthy wait for Jesus’s return, it is possible for us to be deceived into believing the work He has given us is no longer important or at least no longer urgent. But nothing could be further from the truth.

- ❓ How could knowing the master would be gone for a long while affect the way the servants handled themselves? How does the uncertainty of when Christ will return impact us today?
- ❓ What did the master’s response indicate about God’s desire for His people as they await the return of Christ?
- ❓ Application: What needs to change about the way you handle the gifts God entrusted you with? How do you need to act today?

Questions to Guide Your Group’s Discussion

1. What does this passage say?
2. What did this passage mean to its original audience?
3. What does this passage tell us about God?
4. What does this passage tell us about man?
5. What does this passage demand of me?
6. How does this passage change the way I relate to people? (*How can you use this information this week at work or with friends and neighbors?*)
7. How does this passage prompt me to pray to God?

*Adapted from Seven Arrows by Matt Rogers pastor of The Church at Cherrydale, Greenville, SC

Here’s How to Become a Christ-Follower:

Read the following verses and ask after each one: “What does this say to me?”

- **All have sinned:** Romans 3:23 & 1 John 1:8
- **The wages of sin:** Romans 6:23 & John 3:18
- **But while we were sinners, salvation was provided:** Romans 5:8
- **Become a Christ-follower:** Romans 10:9-10 Confess and Believe

Accepting Christ is Just the Beginning:

Next Steps:

- Publicly profess your faith by being baptized (Matthew 10:32-33; Luke 3:21; Romans 6:4).
- Join a church which follows the Bible, where you can grow in your faith through prayer, Bible study and fellowship with other Christians.
- Get involved in groups for encouragement and accountability.
- Begin a daily personal worship experience with God where you study the Bible and pray.
- Share with others what Jesus has done for you. Tell your story (Romans 10:14; Matthew 28:19-20).
- Begin to live for God (Romans 12:1-2, 9-18; James 1:19-27).

Prayer Prompts:

1. What talents is God calling you to use right now?
2. How can you be faithful with what God has given you and not hide it out of fear?