

Community Group Question Guide

Matthew 25:14-30 – My Father's Business

¹⁴ "For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. ¹⁵ To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶ He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. ¹⁷ So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. ¹⁸ But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. ¹⁹ Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰ 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.' ²¹ 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.' ²² And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me two talents; here, I have made two talents more.' ²³ 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.' ²⁴ 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, 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 answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed? ²⁷ Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸ So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. ²⁹ 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. ³⁰ And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

- read the previous two parables to get into the flow of Jesus' progression as he continues his great sermon on the Mount of Olives
- consider carefully the setting as you read – it is Wednesday (most likely) of Passion Week and Jesus is only 24-36 hours from his trial and crucifixion. He is intensively teaching his disciples in preparation for what is to come. How does the Parable of the Talents take on additional meaning as a result?
- "A man going on a journey" – what does this imply?
- Each servant is entrusted with a different amount. Is one deemed more important than another? Why? Why not?
- What is the underlying expectation of each servant?
- This parable is an allegory. What do the following elements represent in Jesus' underlying point: man/master? His property? Servants? Talents (a talent was worth ~20 years wages for a laborer)? Settled accounts? Good & faithful servant? Wicked servant?
- Was the amount earned by each important? Why? Why not?
- How does this parable inform you of what Jesus expects from his followers?
- How important is this to Jesus?
- How do you respond to verse 30?
- Does this parable challenge you? Your thinking? Motivations? Desires? How?