

Questions for Personal Reflection and Group Discussion

1. What “talents” (skills, gifts, opportunities, time, money, possessions, etc.) has God entrusted to you?
2. What does it mean for you to be a good and faithful steward of those “talents?”
3. Do you ever compare who you are and what you have with other people? Why do you think you do that? How does this parable speak to this issue?
4. Do you tend to view God more as a loving Master who you “want” to serve or as a harsh Master who you “have” to serve?

Kingdom Stories: The Parable of the Talents

“Use It or Lose It”

Matthew 25:14-30

John Park, Ambassador Bible Church

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1. GOD IS THE OWNER OF EVERYTHING AND HE HAS GIVEN US THE INCREDIBLE PRIVILEGE OF BEING HIS STEWARDS (14)

¹⁴ *“For it is just like a man about to go on a journey, who called his own slaves and entrusted his possessions to them.*

2. IT’S NOT ABOUT HOW MUCH WE HAVE, BUT WHAT WE DO WITH WHAT WE HAVE (15-18)

¹⁵ *“To one he gave five talents, to another, two, and to another, one, each according to his own ability; and he went on his journey. ¹⁶ “Immediately the one who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and gained five more talents. ¹⁷ “In the same manner the one who had received the two talents gained two more. ¹⁸ “But he who received the one talent went away, and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money.*

3. HAVING THE RIGHT PERSPECTIVE ABOUT GOD IS KEY TO BEING A GOOD AND FAITHFUL STEWARD (19-27)

¹⁹ "Now after a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰ "The one who had received the five talents came up and brought five more talents, saying, 'Master, you entrusted five talents to me. See, I have gained five more talents.' ²¹ "His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' ²² "Also the one who had received the two talents came up and said, 'Master, you entrusted two talents to me. See, I have gained two more talents.' ²³ "His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' ²⁴ "And the one also who had received the one talent came up and said, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you scattered no seed. ²⁵ 'And I was afraid, and went away and hid your talent in the ground. See, you have what is yours.' ²⁶ "But his master answered and said to him, 'You wicked, lazy slave, you knew that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I scattered no seed. ²⁷ 'Then you ought to have put my money in the bank, and on my arrival I would have received my money back with interest.

4. STEWARDSHIP IS ABOUT THE RELATIONSHIP (28-30)

²⁸ 'Therefore take away the talent from him, and give it to the one who has the ten talents.' ²⁹ "For to everyone who has, more shall be given, and he will have an abundance; but from the one who does not have, even what he does have shall be taken away. ³⁰ "Throw out the worthless slave into the outer darkness; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.