

Parable of the Three Servants | Pastor Jason Mecum | 01.22.2023
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I will honor God with what He has entrusted me to steward.

Matthew 25:14-30 NLT

Parable of the Three Servants

14 "Again, the Kingdom of Heaven can be illustrated by the story of a man going on a long trip. He called together his servants and entrusted his money to them while he was gone. 15 He gave five bags of silver to one, two bags of silver to another, and one bag of silver to the last—dividing it in proportion to their abilities. He then left on his trip.

16 "The servant who received the five bags of silver began to invest the money and earned five more. 17 The servant with two bags of silver also went to work and earned two more. 18 But the servant who received the one bag of silver dug a hole in the ground and hid the master's money.

19 "After a long time their master returned from his trip and called them to give an account of how they had used his money. 20 The servant to whom he had entrusted the five bags of silver came forward with five more and said, 'Master, you gave me five bags of silver to invest, and I have earned five more.' 21 "The master was full of praise. 'Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let's celebrate together!'

22 "The servant who had received the two bags of silver came forward and said, 'Master, you gave me two bags of silver to invest, and I have earned two more.' 23 "The master said, 'Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let's celebrate together!'

24 "Then the servant with the one bag of silver came and said, 'Master, I knew you were a harsh man, harvesting crops you didn't plant and gathering crops you didn't cultivate. 25 I was afraid I would lose your money, so I hid it in the earth. Look, here is your money back.' 26 "But the master replied, 'You wicked and lazy servant! If you knew I harvested crops I didn't plant and gathered crops I didn't cultivate, 27 why didn't you deposit my money in the bank? At least I could have gotten some interest on it.'

28 "Then he ordered, 'Take the money from this servant, and give it to the one with the ten bags of silver. 29 To those who use well what they are given, even more will be given, and they will have an abundance. But from those who do nothing, even what little they have will be taken away. 30 Now throw this useless servant into outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

In this parable, the three servants were given bags of silver. Two of the three servants used what was given to them to make more, while one buried the bag given to him- too afraid to risk loss. God gives us gifts to use while we are on Earth. Just as the servants had to make a choice how (or if) they would use what was given to them- we too have to choose how or even if we will use what God provides for us to better His Kingdom and bring Him honor. Some examples of the provisions and gifts He gives us are income, home, children, career, and abilities/skills.

With your Small Group or family discuss (or journal) some ways to use each of these gifts to honor God:

- Income
- Home
- Children
- Career
- Talents (artist, musical abilities, other skills)

Which servant do you feel you relate to most?

- Servant 1—A person with many abilities/funds who uses all of them to bring honor to God?
- Servant 2—A person with abilities or funds but less abundantly—still giving/using everything to serve God?
- Servant 3—A person who holds tight to what they have? Possibly a fear of failure so overpowering you would choose to do nothing for the Kingdom?

What are some of the gifts God has entrusted you with?

- Do you use these gifts for God's Kingdom?
- If so, how? If not, how could you?

What does this passage say about those who use their gifts?

What does it say about those who do not?