

WORSHIP SERIES

a kingdom of HONOR

NOV 3 - 24

Honoring Our Gifts

Date: November 10, 2024

Text: Matthew 25:14-30

BIG IDEA

What buried treasure are you hiding? That may sound like a silly question, but really think about it. The Bible makes it clear that we all are uniquely blessed or equipped to serve the Kingdom of Heaven in some way. Maybe this is a special gift or talent you have that you have always been too embarrassed to share; maybe it is in your abundant resources that you're too nervous to surrender; or maybe it is in a particular passion or hobby that you think is too inconsequential to God. Regardless of what it is, nothing is too small or too unimportant for our Creator to use if we surrender it to Him!

Read the following slowly for a time of contemplation and prayer.

So just for a moment, let's slow our minds. All of our to-dos and unanswered messages can wait. Close your eyes. Take a deep breath. What images or words are coming to mind? Take another breath and as you breathe out, surrender your gift to Him. As you breathe in, thank Him for your gift or ability. We're going to do this a few more times as we prepare our hearts for this lesson.



Conversation Starter

- What is one “secret talent” that you keep hidden?
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COMMENTARY #1

(Verses 14-30 Overview) Last week, we looked at the whole parable about the master, his servants, and the talents he gave them. We studied how the first two servants responded in faithfulness and perseverance to honor the master with their talents... but the third servant responded differently.

The third servant, given the least, decides to bury his talent. Perhaps he thought it too insignificant or unimportant and rather than work to use the gift to honor his master, he hid it. He acted in fear, selfishness, and disobedience—he didn’t even try. So when the master comes back, he simply says “Well, here’s your talent back. You’re mean and hard anyways, I couldn’t have used this talent for anything.”

Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think the last servant hid his talent?
2. The first two servants were praised on their faithfulness, not their increase—do you think this would have been true for

the third as well? Would it have been true even if he lost the talent?

3. What abilities have you been entrusted with that you view as insignificant or too small to be used by God?
4. Which servant do you want to be? Which one have you been?

COMMENTARY #2

(Verses 26-30) The condemnation of this third servant was strong. The sovereignty of the master never excused the laziness of the servant; rather, it condemned that laziness all the more.

Those who don't work for the Lord, or pray, or evangelize because "God is sovereign" condemn themselves by their laziness. By their actions (or lack of action) they show that they are like the wicked servant in the parable. They do not know their Master's heart at all. This man could have done something with what he had; even if it had not doubled, it would have gained some interest for the master's money.

The great theologian Charles Spurgeon said, "If we cannot trade directly and personally on our Lord's account, if we have not the skill nor the tact to manage an enterprise for Him, we may at least contribute to what others are doing, and join our capital to theirs,



so that, by some means, our Master may have the interest to which He is entitled.”

Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever heard someone use the argument, “Well, God is sovereign so I shouldn’t have to (fill-in-the-blank)?” Why is this wrong?
 2. The master could have invested his own money, but he chose to give the responsibility to his servants, why?
 3. Consider the quote from Spurgeon. What are some ways that you can “contribute to what others are doing...”
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GOING DEEPER

In the larger context of Matthew 25, the main point of this parable is clear: our readiness for Jesus’ return is determined by our stewardship of the resources that He has given us. Some think that readiness for Jesus’ return is a very spiritual and abstract thing. It really isn’t—it is a matter of being about our business for the Lord. In light of this parable, we must ask ourselves:

1. What have we done with our knowledge? Our time? Our money? Our abilities? The sins of omission (what we don’t



do) may ultimately be more dangerous than the sins of commission (what we do).

The wicked servant was cast out because his laziness and unwillingness to work for the master demonstrated that he was not a true servant or the master at all. This is why he is cast out—not because he failed to bring increase but because he failed to *try*.

1. How do our works for God demonstrate our relationship with Him?
2. How does it make you feel that the Master rewards effort and not just for success?
3. Do you fear the Master more or the risk of failure?

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Devotional - [Have You Buried Your Gifts? | Desiring God](#)

Inductive Bible Study - [The Parable of The Unforgiving Servant - Matthew 18:23-35 \(studyandobey.com\)](#)



GROUP ACTIVITY

We all have gifts that can be used to further the Kingdom of heaven here on earth. This week, write down a gift you believe you have or one someone has spoken over you. Then, visit weareasbury.com/serve or open the App and click the Grow tab to see what opportunities there are to serve with that gift. You don't have to sign up or commit to anything right now; just begin growing your awareness of areas you might be called to serve in.

Be prepared to share with the group next week!