



## **Honoring the Saints**

**Date: November 3, 2024**

**Text: Matthew 25:14-23**

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### **BIG IDEA**

Who has gone before you? Maybe this was a teacher who inspired you to pursue your career, a coach who called out the best in you, or a parent who never failed to make you feel supported and loved. Just as we all have mentors who have gone before us in life, we all have saints, faithful followers of Jesus, who have gone before us in the faith.

All Saints Sunday is a special day where we get to celebrate and honor those who have gone on to be with the Lord. Throughout this lesson we will see what it means to be faithful with your whole life, and how we can honor those who have left us with that legacy. And while living a life of faithfulness is never easy, we can trust that we will be greeted in Heaven with the joy of our Savior.

*(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. Sit for just a moment. Take a deep breath and open your heart to what the Lord might have for you.



## ***Conversation Starter***

- Who mentored you in the faith (or life)?
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## **COMMENTARY #1**

**(Verses 14-15)** Verse 14 marks the beginning of another parable in this chapter; a parable is simply a culturally understandable or relevant story told by Jesus that illustrates a spiritual truth. This story begins with the master giving talents (a large sum of money) to each of his servants. This was a typical practice in Biblical times as servants were often given great responsibility.

Each servant was given talents according to his ability and while some might have received more than others, all of them received something, and even one talent was a huge responsibility. Along with this, in order for the master to know the *ability* of his servants, he had to know his servants intimately. In his absence, he gathers his trusted servants and gives them each a special responsibility according to who he knew them to be.

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## ***Discussion Questions***

1. How does the Biblical meaning of *servanthood* (great responsibility & trust) compare to our idea of serving today?

2. Who is the master representing in this parable? The servants? The talents?
  3. What does it mean that the master had to know the servants intimately to know their ability? How does that make you view our relationship to the master?
  4. Talk about a time when you were trusted with something of great importance? Who entrusted you? What happened?
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## COMMENTARY #2

**(Verses 16-24)** The first two servants immediately get to work; they had been given a responsibility and would not tarry. Instead, they worked promptly, with perseverance and readiness to give an answer when their master returned. The third, however, hid his talent because he feared losing it.

After a long time, the master returned and found joy in the faithfulness of the first two servants. Although they had made different amounts of increase, he called them both “good and faithful.” His concern was not with the *amount* they had made, but with their faithfulness to him. They are both praised, promised future blessing, and told they would enter into the “joy of the Lord.”

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## ***Discussion Questions***

1. Why do you think the third servant hid his talent? What would you have done?
  2. What does it mean that both were praised for their faithfulness regardless of their “profit”?
  3. What talents have you been given? What have you done with them?
  4. How can you begin to work *promptly*, with *perseverance*, and be ready to *give an answer* for when our Master returns?
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## **GOING DEEPER**

Continue reading the chapter and see how the master responds to the third servant.

1. Notice how he viewed the master; what did he say about him?
2. What heart posture was he operating from? Faithfulness or fear?
3. Notice how each servant was judged individually for their actions. What does that mean for our own walks with the Master?



4. The third servant recognized that the talent belonged to the master, but was he humble?
5. While the others went to work, the third servant made excuses, blamed his fear on the character of the master, and didn't even try to bring increase. Have we ever behaved like this?

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## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

5-Minute Bible Study Video – [Matthew 25 Summary](#)

Video Sermon – [Principles of Good Stewardship \(Matthew 25:14-30\)](#), by Mike Mazzalongo

Podcast Devotional - [The Faithful Servant \(Matthew 25:21\)](#), by David Platt

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## GROUP ACTIVITY

We all have someone who has mentored us or set an example we looked up to at some point in our lives. This week, take time to write a letter or send a message to that person thanking them for how they impacted your journey.