

# Faithful Servant Lesson

Week of April 20 - 26, 2020

## Introduction

Jesus loved to talk about money. He knew that people thought about it all the time. We are not any different today! In today's lesson we hear about the radical economy of God. It is a parable about God's generosity and the human attitude of scarcity. We can easily bury our heads and assets in the sand. Or relax and let God grow us into cheerful givers!

## Lesson Matthew 25:14-27

**14** "Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. **15** To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. **16** The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. **17** So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. **18** But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

**19** "After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. **20** The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.'

**21** "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

**22** "The man with two bags of gold also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with two bags of gold; see, I have gained two more.'

**23** "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

**24** "Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. **25** So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.'

**26** "His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed?

**27** Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.

## Questions

1. What resources or capabilities have been given to you?
2. What gifts or talents do you exercise daily?
3. Whose property are the 'talents' given out to the servants at the beginning, middle and end of the story?
4. Where has God placed you in your community? In society? In your profession or industry? In what sense do these "belong" to God?
5. What factors might be keeping you from carrying out what God has entrusted you to do?

6. How does the attitude of a 'self-made person' differ from the attitude of a steward?

7. Think on these...

- What will I do with my mind?
- What will I do with my uniqueness?
- What will I do with my money?
- What will I do with my relationships?

## **Prayer**

God, thank you for trusting me with abilities, gifts and opportunities that come directly from you. Help me to use the gifts that have been given to me. Help me to learn how I can be a productive servant for you. I love you, Lord, and want you to be able to count on me as a "good and faithful servant." Amen.