
What Will You Do With What God Gave You ?

I want to help you construct your new year's resolutions ! What some of us need is not a resolution but a **REVOLUTION !**



¹³ And Jesus concluded, "Watch out, then, because you do not know the day or the hour.

The Parable of the Three Servants – Matthew 25:14-30

¹⁴ "At that time the Kingdom of heaven will be like this. Once there was a man who was about to leave home on a trip; **he called his servants and put them in charge of his property.** ¹⁵ He gave to each one **according to his ability**: to one he gave five thousand gold coins, to another he gave two thousand, and to another he gave one thousand. Then he left on his trip. ¹⁶ The servant who had received five thousand coins went **at once** and invested his money and earned another five thousand. ¹⁷ In the same way the servant who had received two thousand coins earned another two thousand. ¹⁸ But the servant who had received one thousand coins went off, dug a hole in the ground, and hid his master's money.

¹⁹ "After a long time the master of those servants came back **and settled accounts with them.** ²⁰ The servant who had received five thousand coins came in and handed over the other five thousand. 'You gave me five thousand coins, sir,' he said. 'Look! Here are another five thousand that I have earned.' ²¹ 'Well done, you good and **faithful servant!**' said his master. 'You have been faithful in managing small amounts, so I will put you in charge of large amounts. **Come on in and share my happiness!**' ²² Then the servant who had been given two thousand coins came in and said, 'You gave me two thousand coins, sir. Look! Here are another two thousand that I have earned.' ²³ 'Well done, you good and faithful servant!' said his master. 'You have been faithful in managing small amounts, so I will put you in charge of large amounts. Come on in and share my happiness!' ²⁴ **Then the servant who had received one thousand coins came in and said, 'Sir, I know you are a hard man; you reap harvests where you did not plant, and you gather crops where you did not scatter seed. ²⁵ I was afraid, so I went off and hid your money in the ground. Look! Here is what belongs to you.'** ²⁶ 'You bad and lazy servant!' his master said. 'You knew, did you, that I reap harvests where I did not plant, and gather crops where I did not scatter seed?' ²⁷ Well, then, you should have deposited my money in the bank, and I would have received it all back with interest when I returned. ²⁸ Now, take the money away from him and give it to the one who has ten thousand coins. ²⁹ For to every person who has something, even more will be given, and he will have more than enough; but the person who has nothing, even the little that he has will be taken away from him. ³⁰ As for this useless servant—throw him outside in the darkness; there he will cry and gnash his teeth.'

Circle One:

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Take note as we begin to observe this passage together that MONEY did not always exist. We are studying a topic connected to wealth and it is alright with God. John's "inspired" prayer in **3 John 2** – *"Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth."* This is a pretty strong statement from God – **Above All Things !** But, keep in mind that God desires us to have so much more than "money."

ASIDE: What does "inspired mean ?" _____ (Yes. God-breathed ! Out of the mouth of God) !

ASIDE: When people settle in a place (a land – which God blessed with productivity), they begin to establish an agricultural system. Notice that land and agriculture are two of the most foundational vehicles for wealth. In order to exchange things in an agricultural system, a medium of exchange became necessary (or a system of barter) – to make things easier humanly. Land was traded, animals were traded, crops were traded, lumber was traded, services were traded and then metals began to be traded for making of tools, weapons and instruments, structures etc. Gold, copper, silver, bronze began to be used as payment. The metals were then made into bars and jewelry and coins as we know it even today so that they could be easily transported. The coins were eventually designated according to their "weight." The **shekel** became known as a Jewish coin. The **talent** was the largest unit of silver (and had the value of one ox). Under the Persian empire there was the **daric**, and under the Roman empire there was the **denarius**. There was also the Greek **drachma** and the **mina** (100 drachmas).

Principles for Discussion:

1. Many are servants, but are you a faithful (TRUSTWORTHY – "pistos") servant ?
2. Notice that the same "blessing" was bestowed on the two servants who invested their talents.
3. When we think of investing:
 - putting money to work for you. It's not enough to have money (static), but to allow it to reproduce (dynamic).
 - God wants us to reproduce for the kingdom.
 - That which is reproducing is living.
 - Discipleship is about reproducing what God has done.
4. God is not moved by the quantity of the gifts. Those with the least gifts would be similarly blessed by God.
5. The money was His, but the man wasn't !

We see what God expects of us ! – INCREASE ! But God is fair. He does not require of us anything that He does not provide for us ! (**Genesis 1** principle – God made us after He provided for us).

- A. He who began a good work (Phil 1:6)
- B. Author and finisher of our faith (Heb 12:2)
- C. In him that we move breathe and have our being (Acts 17:28)
- D. Without Him we can do nothing (John 15:5)
- E. both to will and to do of His good pleasure (Phil 2:13)

Look at three problems this servant had:

1: "I knew" (I know) – vs. 24 _____

2: "I was afraid" - vs. 25 _____

3: "I hid" - vs. 25 _____

He was accusing the Lord of being like earthly leaders with whom he was familiar. Had he taken time to know God...? ! He should have known God by taking time to study (and follow) Jesus. This in no way described Jesus' character.

KNOWING GOD

It is important that we know God and what He expects of us. The importance of Bible Study, personal study, devotion, the corporate word, AND LIVING OUT THE WORD (one of the most powerful expressions of word study)...is that we get to **KNOW** God. To **KNOW** Him is to love Him and to **TRUST** Him ! To **TRUST** Him is to have faith. We build up our faith each time we study !

The promises of God are received by FAITH:

1. **Romans 4:16** - ¹⁶Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring—not only to those who are of the law but also to those who have the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all.
2. **Galatians 3:14** - ¹⁴He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit.
3. **2 Corinthians 1:20** - ²⁰For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ. And so through him the "Amen" is spoken by us to the glory of God.

FOR THOUGHT/MEDITATION: Why do you think God used the illustration of money in this parable ? Was He really talking about money (wealth and riches) ? What do you think the money was an illustration of if you put it in context with the other parables in chapter 25 and the overall message of the chapter – "Time Is Winding Up !" ?

Zechariah 4:6 - ⁶Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.

Luke 12:48 - But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes. For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more.