

Matthew 25:14-30

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁴“For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; ¹⁵to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. ¹⁷In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. ¹⁸But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. ¹⁹After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’ ²¹His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ ²²And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’ ²³His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ ²⁴Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; ²⁵so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ ²⁶But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? ²⁷Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. ²⁹For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. ³⁰As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ ”

Questions:

- What are you hearing in this text?
- What are your thoughts on this parable? Do you love it, hate it?
- Who do you most identify with from this parable?
- What do you think Jesus was talking about in this?
- Why does the land owner give different amounts instead of the same amount to each person?
- Does God give the same abilities and responsibilities to us? Why not?
 - How should you react if you are given more?
 - How should you react if you are given less?
 - Is there only one kind of talent?
- What does burying the talent do?
 - What is risked by doing something with the talent?
 - What could happen if they lost the sum?
- So, in this parable, who was right?
 - Was the Landowner right?
 - Was the person who buried the talent right?
 - Were both right?
 - Explain.
- What does this mean for us? Are we expected to bury our gifts? Are we expected to risk them in the world?
 - Explain.
- Is it possible to risk our gifts away?
- How are our gifts an investment?
- What do God's abundance and our gifts have in common?
- Knowing all that, what can we do with our gifts and God's support?
- How would you see this preached on Sunday?