

# Parables

## Parables / Week 2 / Parable of the Talents / Matthew 25:14-30

**Bottom Line: The issue isn't what we've been given, it's about how we manage what we've been given.**

### Opening Icebreaker (10 minutes)

- What is something important you remember **waiting for** in your life? (a game, a job interview, a wedding, graduation, retirement, etc.)
- What **emotions** do you experience **while waiting** for something important? (anticipation, hope, anxiety, excitement)
- What **helped** you **prepare** during that **waiting period**?

### Transition:

Waiting for something important is one of the most emotionally complex experiences humans share.

When we wait for something meaningful, several emotions tend to surface:

- **Anticipation** – imagining possibilities that have not happened yet
- **Hope** – the emotional engine that makes waiting meaningful
- **Anxiety** – uncertainty about how things will unfold

Because waiting often involves things we **cannot control**, it can be difficult. Yet the way we **use the waiting time** often determines how prepared we are when the moment arrives.

Jesus understood that His followers would struggle with waiting.

In **Matthew 24**, Jesus spoke about the **end of the age and His return**.

In **Matthew 25**, He tells several parables to teach His followers **how to wait well**.

### What Is a Parable?

A parable is a simple story drawn from everyday life that reveals a spiritual truth and invites the listener to respond.

### Read aloud: Matthew 25:14–30

### Discussion Questions:

- What **stands out** to you or **surprises** you in this story?
- What surprises you about the **behavior** of the **servants**?
- If you were **hearing this story for the first time**, what would you think Jesus might be trying to teach?
- What does it mean to be a **steward** instead of an owner?
- What are some **things God has entrusted to us** today?

- Why do you think the master gave the **same praise** to the servants who **received different amounts**?
- How does this challenge **the way our culture measures success**?
- What **fears** sometimes keep people from **using the gifts God has given them**?
- How can fear prevent us from **living faithfully**?
- Why do you think Jesus emphasized the master **returning**?
- How does knowing we will **give an account** affect how we live now?

### Application Questions:

- What **resources** or **opportunities** has **God entrusted to you** right now?
- In what ways are you currently **investing** those **resources** for **God's kingdom**?
- Are there any **gifts** or **opportunities** you may be **"burying"** because of fear?

### Pray together as a group:

- Thank God for the resources and opportunities He has entrusted to us.
- Ask God to help us overcome fear and live faithfully.
- Ask God to help us steward our time, gifts, and resources for His kingdom.

### Key Content From the Message

#### Characters in the Parable

**Master** → God

**Servants** → Us

**Talents** → Resources entrusted to us

In the story, a **talent** was a large amount of money.

But the idea of a "talent" can also represent things God entrusts to us such as: money, time, abilities, knowledge, opportunities, spiritual gifts, influence, resources.

Everything we have ultimately **belongs to God**.

A **steward** is someone who faithfully manages resources that belong to someone else.

A helpful way to remember stewardship: **Using God's resources, God's way, for God's glory.**

#### God Values Faithfulness

The lesson of the parable is not about the **amount** entrusted.

It is about **how faithfully we use what we have been given**.

The issue isn't what we've been given.

The issue is **how we manage what we've been given**.