

Summit Woods Baptist Church
Sermon Study Equipping Class

Matthew 25:14-30

Remember to begin your study early in the week so that you have time to really think (and keep thinking) about the passage without being rushed.

❖ Day 1

Read Matthew 25:14-30.

For these lessons, the sermon text is provided in a format that visually helps display the structure of the paragraph or section of text. The main verbs are underlined. Commands are double-underlined. Generally, the main indicative clauses remain to the left, and the other clauses are either directly underneath when they have equal priority to what comes before, or are tabbed to the right when the clause supports, develops, or draws a conclusion from a neighboring clause.

¹⁴ “For it is just like a man about to go on a journey, who called his own slaves and entrusted his possessions to them.

¹⁵ To one he gave five talents,
to another, two,
and to another, one, each according to his own ability;
and he went on his journey.

¹⁶ Immediately the one who had received the five talents went
and traded with them,
and gained five more talents.

¹⁷ In the same manner the one who had received the two talents gained two more.

¹⁸ But he who received the one talent went away,
and dug a hole in the ground
and hid his master’s money.

¹⁹ “Now after a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them.

²⁰ The one who had received the five talents came up and brought five more talents, saying,
‘Master, you entrusted five talents to me.
See, I have gained five more talents.’

²¹ His master said to him,
‘Well done, good and faithful slave.
You were faithful with a few things,
I will put you in charge of many things;
enter into the joy of your master.’

²² “Also the one who had received the two talents came up and said,
‘Master, you entrusted two talents to me.
See, I have gained two more talents.’

²³ His master said to him,
‘Well done, good and faithful slave.
You were faithful with a few things,
I will put you in charge of many things;
enter into the joy of your master.’

²⁴ “And the one also who had received the one talent came up and said,
‘Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you scattered no seed.

²⁵ And I was afraid,
and went away

and hid your talent in the ground.
See, you have what is yours.’

²⁶ “But his master answered and said to him,
‘You wicked, lazy slave, you knew that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I scattered no seed.

²⁷ Then you ought to have put my money in the bank,
and on my arrival I would have received my money back with interest.

²⁸ Therefore take away the talent from him,
and give it to the one who has the ten talents.’

²⁹ “For to everyone who has, more shall be given,
and he will have an abundance;

but from the one who does not have, even what he does have shall be taken away.

³⁰ Throw out the worthless slave into the outer darkness;
in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

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1. For the immediate context, read Matthew 25:1-13, especially verse 13, which leads directly into verses 14-30. For the wider context of this passage, consider reading all of chapters 24 and 25. What is this section of Matthew's Gospel talking about?
2. What is the significance of the word "for" at the beginning of verse 14?
3. What is "it" referring to in verse 14?
4. What genre of literature is this passage (e.g., history, poetry, parable, etc.)? How does this help us interpret the passage?
5. What or who, does the man represent in verse 14? Who do his slaves represent? What about the possessions they are entrusted with?

Man –

Slaves –

Possessions –

6. What does it mean to give "each according to his own ability" in verse 15?

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7. What does the word “immediately” tell us about the character of the five-talent slave?

❖ Day 2

Read Matthew 25:14-30 again.

8. What is Jesus alluding to in real life when He says “now after a long time” in verse 19?

9. What is the reward for the faithfulness of the first two slaves in verse 20-23? What does this signify in reality (what does the parable point to here?)

10. What verb tense (past, present, future) appears for the first time in verses 21 and 23? What is Jesus implying here as it relates to real life?

11. What does the third slave accuse his master of in verse 24? What does he mean by this?

12. Why did the third slave’s bury his talent according to his explanation in verses 24-25?

13. From the third slave’s explanation, what do you think is his motivation behind giving his master “what is yours” in verse 25?

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14. What does the master call the third slave in verse 26?
15. What characteristics are praised in this passage? Which are condemned? How does this connect to the larger context of being ready for Christ's return?

❖ Day 3

Read Matthew 25:14-30 again.

16. What does the master say the third slave should have done? Why?
17. What does the master do with the talent in verses 28-29? Why? How can someone "who does not have" still have something taken from them?
18. What is the master's punishment for the third slave? What is the parable pointing to in reality?
19. Is this passage saying that all people just need to be faithful with the life and talents they've been given, and they'll go to heaven? Why or why not?
20. What is the significance of the word "but" at the beginning of verse 31, following this parable?

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21. Who owns the slaves? Who owns the first eight talents? Who owns the newly gained seven talents? How does this shape our view of God and our relationship to Him?

22. Do you think of life in the new creation as involving more responsibility than you have here? How should this shape our view of eternity and our life right now?

23. What is the point of this passage? Could you sum up its meaning in a single sentence (21 words or less)?

Examine your heart in light of the third slave's wicked and lazy heart towards his master. Spend time in repentance where there might be unconfessed pride or bitterness and ask God to give you a humble and diligent heart like the good and faithful slaves.