

Discussion Guide

Use this guide by yourself, with a friend, or in a group to help you pursue a deeper relationship with Jesus this week!

Open

As we continue to examine Jesus' parables in our sermon series, this week Pastor Don looks at the Parable of the Talents. And although the word "talent" now means a skill or ability, in Jesus' day everyone knew that a "talent" was a unit of money which weighed somewhere between 60 and 80 pounds - obviously worth a substantial amount! But Jesus' point in the parable is more about faithfulness than money, and that's exactly what you'll be discussing in your group today. To get the conversation started, let everyone share whether they're more of a 'saver' or a 'spender'...

BIG THOUGHT

Jesus makes it clear that God will hold us accountable for what we do with the resources He's given us (including our abilities and skills), and how we use them to further His kingdom work.

Dig

1. One of the keys for understanding this parable is found in realizing that Jesus teaches it in a cluster of parables that all illustrate the need to be ready for the end of time when we will be held accountable for our obedience to God (see Matthew 24). Go ahead and read Matthew 25:14-18. What stands out to you in these verses? How does it strike you that some were given more than others? What do you immediately notice in the responses of the servants? (v. 18)
2. Now read v.19-21. Have you ever felt like God has (or had) entrusted you with a significant amount of resources, talents, or opportunities to be used in service to His desires? Why or why not? What did this first servant do with his boss' money? And what was the boss' response? What do we learn about God when we see that He wants to celebrate with the faithful servant? (v. 21)

3. Read v. 22-23. On what basis is the servant with the two talents rewarded? How can this encourage us in our own faithfulness to Jesus?
4. Now read v. 24-25. What is the servant with one talent implying about the boss' integrity and motivation in his report? What does this show about his own heart? Does his choice to protect the talent by hiding it make sense to you? (v. 25) Why or why not?
5. Read v. 26-30. How does the boss' treatment of the final servant strike you - harsh? Consistent with his treatment of the others? Justified? Does it change with knowing that one of the reasons for the servant to *not* put the money in the bank was that he could keep it for himself if his boss didn't return? Explain your thoughts...
6. Turn and read Luke 16:10. With this verse and the Parable of the Talents in mind, what expectations do you think God has for how we invest our lives and whatever resources He gifts us with? If the Master returned today, how much of your potential would He say you're using for Him right now?

Take it Further

Talk with God, and ask Him to help you more clearly see all the resources He's placed in your life - and to help you put them to work for His Kingdom!

Daily Readings

Day 1: 1 Peter 4:10

Day 4: 2 Corinthians 5:10

Day 2: Colossians 3:23-24

Day 5: Romans 12:11

Day 3: Ephesians 2:10

Day 6: 1 Corinthians 12:4-5

Memory Verse: Matthew 25:23



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