

## Daily Living – A Faithful Steward Mt. 25:14-30

*Thesis: To encourage us to be faithful stewards of what God has given us.*

### Introduction:

- A. Comparison of the church to a football game
  - 1. Definition of a football game
  - 2. Bud Wilkerson, former football coach of Oklahoma Sooners, says something to this effect:
  - 3. *“A football game is 50,000 people who are badly in need of exercise sitting up in the stands cheering for 22 men who are badly in need of rest.”*
  
- B. The main idea of this parable is that if we can be good stewards of what God has given us, then the other things of our life will fall into place.
  - 1. If we are faithful stewards of what God has given us, then attending the worship services of our Lord will not be a problem.
  - 2. If we are faithful stewards of what God has given us, then it will be easy to do good towards others.
  - 3. If we are faithful stewards of what God has given us, then giving back to God will not be a problem.
  - 4. The point is that if we are faithful stewards of what God has given us, the rest of our life will fall into place.

### I. Each of us has been given great blessings from God.

- A. Each of the servants were given a different amount of talents to use for their master (25:14-15).
  - 1. Notice the difference in the amount each servant was given (25:15).
    - a. One servant was given five talents.
    - b. Another servant was given two talents.
    - c. A third servant was given one talent.
  - 2. Notice also that the talent was not given to them for personal use, but rather it was for their master.
    - a. It was their master’s money that they were working with.
    - b. In other words, the profit they made from the talent went directly to their master.
    - c. While Jesus does not directly say this in the parable, it would have been easily understood by those who were listening to Him (we know this because the master came back and the servants were accountable to him).
  - 3. Also, the talents were distributed to the servants according to their own ability.
    - a. They were not given something that they could not handle.
    - b. They were well-equipped to use these talents wisely.

**B. Today, God has given us different talents, and He expects us to use them for His service.**

1. We have all been given certain gifts (or abilities) from God.
  - a. We do not have the same abilities as another.
  - b. However, we have been given these talents according to our ability.
    - 1) In other words, we are not in over our head.
    - 2) God has given us these talents, and He expects us to use them for His service.
  - c. **I Cor. 12:12-27** - For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. {13} For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body-- whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free-- and have all been made to drink into one Spirit. {14} For in fact the body is not one member but many. {15} If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body," is it therefore not of the body? {16} And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body," is it therefore not of the body? {17} If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where would be the smelling? {18} But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased. {19} And if they were all one member, where would the body be? {20} But now indeed there are many members, yet one body. {21} And the eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you"; nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." {22} No, much rather, those members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary. {23} And those members of the body which we think to be less honorable, on these we bestow greater honor; and our unpresentable parts have greater modesty, {24} but our presentable parts have no need. But God composed the body, having given greater honor to that part which lacks it, {25} that there should be no schism in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another. {26} And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it. {27} Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.
    - 1) Paul talks of different purposes and spiritual gifts that the members of the church have.
    - 2) Each person has a gift that is valuable for use in the Lord's church.
    - 3) They were each to use their abilities for the purpose of the church.
2. God expects us to use our talents and abilities to the best of our ability.
  - a. It is not the number of talents that is the important thing; but rather it is the use of our own talents that is important.

- b. “We are not equal in talents, but we are equal in effort” (Tom Holland, Sermon Outlines of Matthew, pg. 125).
- c. **II Cor. 8:12** - For if there is first a willing mind, it is accepted according to what one has, and not according to what he does not have.

## II. Each of us are responsible for what God has given us.

### A. The master expected each servant to use the talents that they had been given for his service (**25:19-25**).

1. Each servant was responsible for the talents that they had been given.
  - a. Two of the servants had used their talent in the proper manner (**25:16-17**).
  - b. One servant had hid his talent (**25:18**).
2. The master returned to settle accounts with them (**25:19-25**).
  - a. Each servant had to stand before their master and give an account of what they had done with the talents that they had been given.
  - b. Notice the accounts that were given.
    - 1) Two servants gave a favorable report of what they had done
      - a) The one who received five talents now had ten (**25:20**).
      - b) The one who received two talents now had four (**25:22**).
    - 2) One servant admitted that he did nothing with his master’s money (**25:24-25**).
3. The servants had to give an account of themselves to their master.

### B. Just as each servant gave an account to their master, we will one day give an account for our actions to our Master.

1. Along with our ability comes responsibility.
  - a. This is true in every walk of life.
  - b. Our ability plus the opportunity equals responsibility.
2. Along with responsibility comes accountability.
  - a. Every job requires accountability for our actions.
    - 1) Many people want to be in charge but not questioned about what they did.
    - 2) We are accountable for our actions.
      - a) **Mt. 12:36** (We are responsible for what we say) - **But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment.**
      - b) **Heb. 13:17** (Elders are responsible for their leadership of the flock) - **Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account.**
- b. We must understand that we will stand before God and give an account of the things that we have done.

- 1) **Rom. 14:12** - So then each of us shall give account of himself to God.
- 2) **Heb. 4:13** - And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.
- 3) **II Cor. 5:10** - For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

### III. There is a reward and punishment based on how we have handled our responsibility.

#### A. The two servants who used their talents were rewarded (25:21, 23).

1. Because they had done what was right, they were rewarded.
2. They were each going to be “ruler over many things.”

#### B. The servant who buried his talent was punished (25:26-30).

1. Because he did not use the talent according to his ability, he was punished.
2. Notice his punishment (25:26-30).

#### C. Today, we will be either rewarded or punished based upon how faithful we are as a steward of the things that God had given us.

1. The righteous will inherit eternal life; the wicked will inherit eternal punishment.
2. **Rom. 2:5-10** - But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, {6} who “will render to each one according to his deeds”: {7} eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality; {8} but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness-- indignation and wrath, {9} tribulation and anguish, on every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek; {10} but glory, honor, and peace to everyone who works what is good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

### Conclusion:

- A. What has God given you?
- B. More importantly, what have you done with the things that God has given you?
- C. The church is full of people who are going to be surprised on the day of judgment.
  1. It is not that they would have done anything grievously wrong.
  2. It's the simple fact that they have not been good stewards of the things that God has given them.