

**Matthew 25:14-30:** For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants & entrusted to them his property. <sup>15</sup> To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. <sup>16</sup> He who had received the five talents went at once & traded with them, & he made five talents more. <sup>17</sup> So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. <sup>18</sup> But he who had received the one talent went & dug in the ground & hid his master's money. <sup>19</sup> Now after a long time the master of those servants came & settled accounts with them. <sup>20</sup> And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, "Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more." <sup>21</sup> His master said to him, "Well done, good & faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master." <sup>22</sup> And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, "Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more." <sup>23</sup> His master said to him, "Well done, good & faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master." <sup>24</sup> He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, "Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, & gathering where you scattered no seed, <sup>25</sup> so I was afraid, & I went & hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours." <sup>26</sup> But his master answered him, "You wicked & slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sowed & gather where I scattered no seed? <sup>27</sup> Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, & at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. <sup>28</sup> So take the talent from him & give it to him who has the ten talents. <sup>29</sup> For to everyone who has will more be given, & he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. <sup>30</sup> And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping & gnashing of teeth."

**Intro:** These are Jesus' last Words as He privately teaches His disciples before He dies, rises, & goes to His Father. Last words are important. The focus? Get ready & stay ready for the return of the King! Last week: We began to look at this parable of the talents, & the main point is: All that you have is a gift from the most loving & most merciful Christ, so by His power & grace, use His gifts faithfully for His glory!

### **1. Jesus Entrusts His Saints With His Gifts - - - GOSPEL!**

**John 5:24:** Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears My Word & believes Him Who sent Me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.

### **2. Jesus' Saints Are His Slaves**

### **3. Jesus' Return Will Be Delayed**

### **4. Jesus Gives Different Gifts To Different Saints**

### **5. Jesus Will Come Back And Settle Accounts**

### **6. Jesus Will Greatly Reward Those Who Are Faithful**

**Matthew 25:16-17, 20-23:** He who had received the five talents went at once & traded with them, & he made five talents more. <sup>17</sup> So also he who had the two talents made two talents more . . . <sup>20</sup> And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, "Master, you delivered to me five talents; here [Look! Behold! See!] I have made five talents more." <sup>21</sup> His master said to him, "Well done, good & faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master." <sup>22</sup> And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, "Master, you delivered to me two talents; here [Look! Behold! See!] I have made two talents more." <sup>23</sup> His master said to him, "Well done, good & faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master."

**a. We should want to be faithful slaves of Christ:** We want to trust & obey & please our LORD!

**William Hendriksen:** The man's eyes are sparkling. He is bubbling over with enthusiasm, is thoroughly thrilled, & invites his master to start counting.

**Song:** I wanna hear You say the words to me, "Well done!"; I wanna hear You say, "Good and faithful servant!" I wanna hear You say, "I've prepared a place for you"; Let all the treasures of this world fade away! Jesus, You are my reward!; To hear Your voice on that day is all I'm living for!

Jesus, You are my reward!; To see Your face on that day is all I'm living for!

**b. Jesus' faithful slaves will receive Jesus' commendation:** We will hear Him speak to us: "Well done . . . !"

**c. Jesus' faithful slaves will enter into the joy of Jesus:** Share in your master's happiness! The joy & happiness of Jesus is the joy & happiness of God, & His joy & happiness are infinitely great & vast!

- **1 Tim 1:11:** the glorious Gospel of the blessed God; **1 Tim 6:15:** He who is the blessed & only Sovereign, the King of kings & Lord of lords; **Rom 9:5:** the Christ who is God over all, blessed forever. Amen.

- **Mark Jones (citing Reformed theologian Benedict Pictet):** Anyone who understands true happiness will affirm that God is "most happy" since He is "in need of nothing, finds all comfort in Himself, & possesses all things; is free from evil, & filled with all good".

- **Psalm 16:11:** in Your presence there is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore. [Christ!]

Beloved, think of the happiest moments of your life! Children: Christmas morning; Friday nights; Some great achievement; Another's achievement: Eagles Super Bowl; The girl said yes; Your wedding day; Your wedding day night; You got the dream job; Your pregnant; Your first child is born; Something you thought was impossible you prayed for, & God answers! Someone gets saved! Those are all tiny sparks, God's joy is the sun & more!

**Jonathan Edwards:** God is the highest good of the reasonable creature. The enjoyment of Him is our proper; & is the only happiness with which our souls can be satisfied. To go to heaven, fully to enjoy God, is infinitely better than the most pleasant accommodations here. Better than fathers & mothers, husbands, wives, or children, or the company of any, or all earthly friends. These are but shadows; but the enjoyment of God is the substance. These are but scattered beams; but God is the sun. These are but streams; but God is the fountain. These are but drops, but God is the ocean. [Notice the 2 talent person & the 5 talent person get the same reward – the joy of God!]

**d. Jesus' faithful slaves will be given more responsibility: Vs 21, 23:** You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master. [We are going to reign with Christ!]

**2 Timothy 2:12:** if we endure, we will also reign with Him

### **7. The Unfaithful Wrongly Perceive Jesus To Be Hard And Unbearably Demanding**

**Matthew 25:24-25:** He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, "Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, & gathering where you scattered no seed,<sup>25</sup> so I was afraid . . . .

**a. The unfaithful slave had a wrong view of Jesus:** He viewed Jesus as a hard, harsh, stern, merciless taskmaster who demands the impossible! "Nothing I can do is good enough for You! No matter what I do, it won't be enough!"

1) Remember the cross: **Romans 8:32:** He who did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him graciously give us all things?

2) Remember God's discipline is always loving, & His goal is always to make you more like Jesus:  
**Elisabeth Elliot:** God will not protect you from anything that will make make you more like Jesus.

3) Fight to know Christ's love: **Eph. 3:17-19:** so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith – that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth & length & height & depth, & to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

**Jonathan Edwards:** Resolved, to examine carefully, & constantly, what that one thing in me is, which causes me in the least to doubt of the love of God; & to direct all my forces against it.

**Thomas Watson:** How invincible is the love of Christ! "It is strong as death!" . . . Death might take away Christ's life, but not His love! Neither can our sin wholly quench that divine flame of love. The church had her infirmities, her sleepy fits . . . but though [dirty] & sullied, yet she is still Christ's dove. Christ could see the faith, & wink at the failing. He who painted Alexander, drew him with his finger over the scar on his face. Just so, Christ puts the finger of mercy over the scars of the saints! He will not throw away His pearls for every speck of dirt! That which makes this love of Christ the more stupendous, is that there was nothing in us to excite or draw forth His love! He did not love us because we were worthy – but by loving us, He made us worthy! Serious meditation on the love of Christ, would make us love Him in return. Who can tread by meditation upon these hot coals of Christ's love – & his heart not burn in love to Him? Meditation on Christ's love, would set our eyes [flowing] with tears! O [may we not] sin against so sweet a Savior! Had we none to abuse, but our best Friend? Must we give Him more gall & vinegar to drink? O, if anything can dissolve the heart into mourning – it is the unkindnesses we give to Christ! When Peter thought of Christ's love to him, this made his eyes to water! "Peter went out and wept bitterly."

**D. A. Carson:** This slave's failure betrays not only his lack of love for his master, which he masks by blaming his master & excusing himself, but his own responsibilities as a slave.

**Shai Linne:** He's not telling Timothy to remember a philosophy. He's not telling him to remember a worldview. He's not even telling him to remember primarily a doctrine or a theological truth. No. He's telling him to remember a Person! Of course doctrine and theology help us understand more about this Person, but one thing we need to be careful of, especially in our highly educated Reformed circles, is assuming that love for doctrine and theology is the same thing as love for the Person of Jesus Christ. They're not the same thing . . . It's possible to have all the right theologians on your bookshelf, to listen to all the right podcasts, to know all the right theological terminology, and yet not know God! That's not to say that doctrine's not important, it's critical. Please don't hear me saying: "Oh forget about doctrine, just give me Jesus." Because if you say that to me, my next question is going to be: "Well, who's Jesus?" And as soon as you begin to answer that question your answer will either be sound doctrine or false doctrine. My point is that doctrinal knowledge, as important as it is, is not a substitute for loving the Person of Jesus Christ . . . Notice how the Lord Jesus commends the church at Ephesus [in Revelation 2]. He says in verse 2: "I know your works, your toil, and your patient endurance, and how you cannot bear with those who are evil but have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not and found them to be false. I know you are enduring patiently and bearing up for My name's sake and you have not grown weary." Did you notice how much the Ephesian church got right? And when you look at Jesus' commendations, you'll notice that these are many of the very things that Paul had exhorted Timothy about years before. They worked hard; they suffered patiently; they loved holiness; they hated false teaching; they stood firm for the name of Christ; they persevered! Those are all good things, and yet with all they got right, the risen Christ was able to say to them in Revelation 2:4: "You abandoned your first love"! Years later, the sheep gave in to the very temptation that Paul was warning the shepherd about – they forget to remember! In all their zeal against false teaching, they neglected to adore the ultimate Teacher, the Rabbi, the Lord Jesus Christ! In all their right love for holiness, they grew cold toward the Holy One of God! In all their standing firm for the name of Christ, they had abandoned love for the Person of Christ! So Paul tells Timothy: "Remember Jesus Christ"!

All that you have is a gift from the most loving & most merciful Christ, so by His power & grace, use His gifts faithfully for His glory!

### **8. The Unfaithful Do Not Use Their Gifts For The Glory Of Jesus**

**Matthew 25:18, 24-25:** But he who had received the one talent went & dug in the ground & hid his master's money . . . <sup>24</sup> He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, "Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, & gathering where you scattered no seed, <sup>25</sup> so I was afraid, & I went & hid your talent in the ground. Here [Look! Behold! See!] you have what is yours." [He is so deceived!]

- **Ligon Duncan:** We are not told that the unprofitable servant was a murderer or a thief or even a waster of his lord's money, but that he did nothing & that was his ruin. Let us beware of a "do nothing Christianity." Such

Christianity does not come from the Spirit of God. "To do no harm" says Richard Baxter, "is the praise of a stone not of a man."

- **John Piper (*Risk Is Right*):** A choice lies before you: Either waste your life or live with risk. Either sit on the sidelines or get in the game. After all, life was no cakewalk for Jesus, & He didn't promise it would be any easier for His followers. We shouldn't be surprised by resistance & persecution. Yet most of us play it safe. We pursue comfort. We spend ourselves to get more stuff. And we prefer to be entertained. We are all tempted by the idea of security, the possibility of a cozy Christianity with no hell at the end. But what kind of life is that really? It's a far cry from adventurous & abundant, from truly rich & really full, & it's certainly not the heights & the depths Jesus calls us to. Discover in these pages a foundation for fearlessness. Hear God's promise to go with you into the unknown. And let *Risk Is Right* help you see the joys of a faith-filled & seriously rewarding life of Jesus-dependent abandon!

- **C. T. Studd:** Only one life, 'twill soon be past. Only what's done for Christ will last!

To follow Jesus faithfully, you will have to take risks. How is your "risk meter" for Christ? Help us Lord!

### **9. Jesus Condemns The Wicked Slave Yet He Does Demand The Impossible**

**Matthew 25:26-27:** But his master answered him, "You wicked & slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sowed & gather where I scattered no seed?" <sup>27</sup> Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, & at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest."

**a. The wicked slave is condemned by his own words: MacArthur:** In repeating the slave's charge against him, the master was not acknowledging that it was true. He was allowing the man's own words to condemn him. If the slave really believed the master to be the kind of man he portrayed, that was all the more reason for him not to be slothful.

**b. Yet Jesus does demand the impossible: Matthew 19:25-26:** When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished, saying, "Who then can be saved?" <sup>26</sup> But Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

- **Colossians 1:29:** For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.

- **1 Peter 4:11:** whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies – in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.

- **Covenant:** Realizing my own inadequacy, I will earnestly seek the help of the Holy Spirit & the fellowship of the church in the accomplishment of these purposes, to the glory of God the Father & His Son, Jesus Christ.

**David Livingstone:** God, send me anywhere, only go with me. Lay any burden on me, only sustain me. And sever any tie in my heart except the tie that binds my heart to Yours.

### **10. Jesus Will Judge The Wicked**

**Matthew 25:28-30:** So take the talent from him & give it to him who has the ten talents. <sup>29</sup> For to everyone who has will more be given, & he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. <sup>30</sup> And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping & gnashing of teeth. [Woman bought her aging mom a new mattress-lost \$1 million!; Mom left child in car-lost baby]

Everything will be taken from the wicked except the wrath & fury of an infinitely angry God in hell forever.

Our only hope to be faithful & to be ready when King Jesus comes back to settle accounts is to be found in Christ! He is the perfect slave Who has infinite ability & talents & was & is good & faithful like no one else has ever been good & faithful! He has all joy & happiness in Himself! Yet, He suffered & died the greatest punishment on that cross so that we might be saved! Everything was taken from Him; He was counted as the worthless slave & cast out into outer darkness where there was much weeping & crying out: "My God! My God! Why have You forsaken Me?"

**Hebrews 12:2:** Who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross

God raised Him up! That is God's: "Well done! Good & faithful servant! Enter into the joy of God!" to Jesus!

**Philippians 2:5-11:** Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, Who, though He was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made Himself nothing, taking the form of a slave, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted Him & bestowed on Him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven & on earth & under the earth, & every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

All that you have is a gift from the most loving & most merciful Christ, so by His power & grace, use His gifts faithfully for His glory!

Jesus is God's greatest slave! Has infinite talents! Good & faithful! Has all joy in God!

Christ Jesus Is God Of Infinite Worth  
He Has More Talents Than All On The Earth  
He's The Good And Faithful Servant From Birth  
Who Received God's "Well Done!" With Joy And Mirth  
Then Died On That Cross, Was Buried In Earth

But Rose From The Dead To Give Us New Birth  
So Now We Are Faithful And Live From His Worth  
We Use His Good Gifts To Do Right On This Earth  
To Hear His Well Done, The Fruits Of Rebirth  
And Enter His Joy, What Pleasures And Mirth!

**Shai Linne:** Remember Jesus Christ!  
First, remember His glorious Person!  
Remember His preexistence!  
Remember His perfect life!  
Remember His sacrificial death!  
Remember His glorious resurrection!

When you're tempted to sin, remember Jesus Christ, that He Himself suffered when He was tempted, so He's able to help those who are being tempted!

When you've fallen into sin, remember Jesus Christ, that we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous and that He is the propitiation for our sins!

When you're discouraged, remember Jesus Christ, Who said: "In the world you will have tribulation, but take heart! I have overcome the world!"

When you're sick, remember Jesus Christ, Who by the power that enables Him to bring everything under His control will transform our lowly body so that they will be like His glorious body!

When you're healthy, remember Jesus Christ, and give Him thanks like the leper who was healed and returned to express his gratitude to Jesus!

When you're anxious about finances, remember Jesus Christ, Who said: "Consider the ravens. They neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds!"

You considering doing something difficult for the LORD? Or going out for the sake of His name? Remember Jesus Christ, Who said: "I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Children, if there's any children in the building, remember Jesus Christ kids!  
God made you, and He made you for His glory – that you might live and honor Jesus Christ all your days!

If you're single, remember Jesus Christ – your Maker is your Husband! The LORD of hosts is His name, and the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer!

Fathers, remember Jesus Christ! In your homes as you lead your family pray that your home would be a sanctuary where God is acknowledged and worshiped!

Mothers, moms, remember Jesus Christ! Both His power to save your children as well as His acceptance of you when you feel overwhelmed or when you feel like a failure!

Older saints, remember Jesus Christ, Who says in Isaiah 46:4: "Even to your old age, I AM He, and to gray hairs, I will carry you! I have made, and I will bear! I will carry, and I will save!"

Deacons, as you serve the LORD, remember Jesus Christ, the ultimate Deacon Who came not to be served but to serve and to give His life as a ransom for many!

Pastors, as you lead your congregations, remember Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd and Overseer of our souls! Remember that your righteousness is not found in your leadership, your sermons, or your counseling! Your righteousness is found in Jesus!

That's what we talkin' about y'all!

We talkin' about Jesus!

The God Glorifier!

The universe Creator!

The prophecy Fulfiller!

The perfect law Obeyer!

The Scripture Validator!

The Father Honorer!

The humility Modeler!

The cross Carrier!

The sin Bearer!

The death Conqueror!

The grave Defeater!

The salvation Achiever!

The prayer Answerer!

The proud Humbler!

The weak Strengthened!

The elect Preserver!

The triumphant Returner!

The justice Executor!

The Satan Destroyer!

The eternal joy Giver!

That's Jesus y'all!

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!