

## BIBLE TALK

### Making Your Life Count for Eternity

Matthew 25:14-30

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"Make Life Count." **I want to talk about life investments.** Life investments are far more important than your financial investment. Your financial investments are only good for this lifetime. Investing your life in the things of God and God's kingdom are not only good for this lifetime but eternity as well. Your life investment is good for time and eternity. -

#### **Matt 6-33. - Ps 37-**

Now you can do three things with your life:

*You can waste your life and there are many ways to do that.*

*You can spend your life and the advertisers will offer many ways to do that.*

*Or, you can invest your life. And to invest your life means to use it in a way that outlasts it, to make a difference for eternity, to leave a legacy.*

**Ephesians 2:10** says, "We are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

When we give our lives to Jesus Christ we become new creations. Our lives have an entirely new focus. One part of this focus is where we invest our time and energy.

God created us in Christ Jesus to do good works. We are to engage in work that honors God and advances His kingdom. That is, we are to invest our lives in service. Such service counts for eternity. Rather than working for what will crumble and decay we work for that which will last forever.

To help us serve consistently, I wish to share with you seven principles for investing your life. These are found in a parable that Jesus taught in **Matthew 25:14-30**.

<sup>14</sup>"Again, the Kingdom of Heaven can be illustrated by the story of a man going on a trip. He called together his servants and gave them money to invest for him while he was gone. <sup>15</sup>He gave five bags of gold to one, two bags of gold to another, and one bag of gold to the last dividing it in proportion to their abilities-and then left on his trip. <sup>16</sup>The servant who received the five bags of gold began immediately to invest the money and soon doubled it. <sup>17</sup>The servant with two bags of gold also went right to work and doubled the money. <sup>18</sup>But the servant who received the one bag of gold dug a hole in the ground and hid the master's money for safekeeping.

These three servants are actually "slaves" owned by the master. In the ancient world slaves enjoyed quite a lot of responsibility and authority. The man going on a journey entrusts each with a huge sum of money. **Five years wages.** So, the master has handed over a big responsibility to the servants. He expects them to invest it in some profitable venture, not merely purchase mutual funds with it, or worse, plunk it into a money market fund. No, the three slaves are understood to be partners in the man's affairs and if successful may share some of the profits from their efforts.

#### **I. OWNERSHIP: Everything I have belongs to God.**

Look again at **v. 14**. This passage shows us that the master is the owner of the property, or

money, that he leaves with his servants.

**Vs. 14** "Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, which called his servants and entrusted his property to them." **The man represents God.** God is the owner of everything we have. **This is so easy to forget.** We don't own the things we use: Everything we have has been **loan to us** by God, whether it's our **houses**, our **bank accounts**, our **abilities**, or even **our time**. God owns these things, and it helps to be reminded of this truth every now and then. Without it, we tend to hold our **possessions** too tightly, **and refusing to give them back to God when He asks for them.** Understanding that everything belongs to God helps we are more generous in our giving, our time and the deployment of our gifts.

**Are you a faithful steward in handling God's business?**

**Everybody can be great.** Because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your **subject** and your **verb** agrees to **serve** . . . You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love. -Martin Luther King, Jr.

Today we want to check our "Servant Quotient" (SQ). To help you take inventory, candidly rate yourself from 1 to 10 on each of the following questions, with 10 being the highest score.

1. Do you willingly serve your spouse, parents, roommate, or other important person?
2. At work are you known as someone who will help out with any job?
3. Would your family say you help out around the house without complaining?
4. At church do you seize opportunities to give yourself to those that are in need/weak?

Tally your score-and if it could stand a boost, choose one thing you can do today to raise it. Now that you have practical ideas from Jesus' parable on the talents, the question is when you plan to "Move forward? I trust you will open yourself to God in a new way, and allow Him to use you in ways that you never have before. Use your gifts for God. Make your life count for eternity, starting today.

**Pray:**