



November 25 & 26 2017
Part 8: The Talent

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¹⁴ “For it is like a man going on a journey, who summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them. ¹⁵ To one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. ¹⁶ The one who had received five talents went off right away and put his money to work and gained five more. ¹⁷ In the same way, the one who had two gained two more. ¹⁸ But the one who had received one talent went out and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money in it. ¹⁹ After a long time, the master of those slaves came and settled his accounts with them. ²⁰ The one who had received the five talents came and brought five more, saying, ‘Sir, you entrusted me with five talents. See, I have gained five more.’ ²¹ His master answered, ‘Well done, good and faithful slave! You have been faithful in a few things. I will put you in charge of many things. Enter into the joy of your master.’ ²² The one with the two talents also came and said, ‘Sir, you entrusted two talents to me. See, I have gained two more.’ ²³ His master answered, ‘Well done, good and faithful slave! You have been faithful with a few things. I will put you in charge of many things. Enter into the joy of your master.’ ²⁴ Then the one who had received the one talent came and said, ‘Sir, I knew that you were a hard man, harvesting where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed, ²⁵ so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. See, you have what is yours.’ ²⁶ But his master answered, ‘Evil and lazy slave! So you knew that I harvest where I didn’t sow and gather where I didn’t scatter? ²⁷ Then you should have deposited my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received my money back with interest! ²⁸ Therefore take the talent from him and give it to the one who has ten. ²⁹ For the one who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough. But the one who does not have, even what he has will be taken from him. ³⁰ And throw that worthless slave into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’”

Matthew 25:14-30

The Big Idea

Four Principles from the Parable

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

The Key Question

Memory Verse

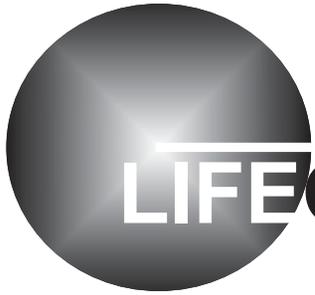
“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.”
1 Peter 4:10

MY NEXT STEP IS TO . . .

- Trust in Jesus Christ as my Lord and savior for the first time
- Memorize 1 Peter 4:10
- Dig up the talents I’ve buried and begin putting them to use for God’s kingdom
- Ask God to give me boldness in putting His investment to use
- Commit to the twelve days of invite challenge



Be sure and invite a friend, family member or co-worker to join you next week at ERBC!
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Discussion Questions - Week #10

QUICK REVIEW

Thinking back to the sermon this weekend "Parable of The Talents," in a sentence or two summarize the main point.

Looking back at your notes, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

GETTING STARTED

1. Often we look at others and view their talents with longing, wishing we could do what they can. If you could choose to have any skill or ability (i.e., painting, singing, public speaking, etc.) what would it be?

2. Share an example of one of your talents that you've seen grow over time through active use?

DIGGING DEEPER

3. In addition to our natural gifts and abilities, the Apostle Paul discusses gifts that we receive when we become believers. Read Romans 12:4-8 and 1 Corinthians 12:4-11. Share with the group where you believe God has gifted you.

How did you discover your gift(s)?

In what way are you currently using your gift(s) for God's kingdom?

4. Read Matthew 24:42-44. What do you think it would look like in your life to keep watch?

What do you think Jesus means by that?

Do you think it's possible to go overboard on keeping watch?

How often do you think about Christ's return?

Do you think to have an active anticipation of his return would impact your life?

If so, how? Is his return something you're looking forward to? Why or why not?

5. Read Matthew 25:1-31. How does this passage differ from Matthew 24:42-44?

In what way is the message similar?

What is meant by the closed door (v.10-11) in this parable?

Why do you think the 'foolish virgins' didn't have any oil for their lamps?

What do you think that symbolizes?

How do you think Jesus wants us to respond in light of this parable?

TAKING IT HOME

6. What steps can you take this week to prepare for Christ's return by putting the talents he's given you into action?

7. How can the group be praying for you to be Christ's good and faithful servant?

PRAYER REQUESTS