

June 26, 2016

**Work With What You've Got**  
**Matthew 25:14-30**  
**Guest Speaker: Dr. Willie Bolden**

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## Using This Study

### ❶ EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

### ❷ EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

### ❸ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.



This week we will take a look at a familiar passage in the gospel of Matthew. In this part of Matthew chapter 25 we get to see the interaction between a master and his slaves. We should be able to see that we are to use our talents, whether they are of monies/coins or gifts/skills the Lord has bestowed upon us. Does it matter how you use your talents and gifts? What would God want you to do? Are you doing that? We must consider the consequences if we don't fully contemplate our actions.



## Read Matthew 25:14-30 (NET)

<sup>14</sup> “For it is like a man going on a journey, who summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them. <sup>15</sup> To one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. <sup>16</sup> The one who had received five talents went off right away and put his money to work and gained five more. <sup>17</sup> In the same way, the one who had two gained two more. <sup>18</sup> 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. <sup>19</sup> After a long time, the master of those slaves came and settled his accounts with them. <sup>20</sup> 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.’ <sup>21</sup> 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.’ <sup>22</sup> The one with the two talents also came and said, ‘Sir, you entrusted two talents to me. See, I have gained two more.’

<sup>23</sup> 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.’ <sup>24</sup> 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, <sup>25</sup> so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. See, you have what is yours.’ <sup>26</sup> 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? <sup>27</sup> Then you should have deposited my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received my money back with interest! <sup>28</sup> Therefore take the talent from him and give it to the one who has ten. <sup>29</sup> 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. <sup>30</sup> And throw that worthless slave into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

## **EXAMINE His Word (Observation)** (For personal preparation)

**What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details and terms emphasized in the foregoing passages.**

1. Who is involved in the text? Author, audience, main characters.
2. Where and when is this taking place? Geography and timeline.
3. What actions are carried out or commanded? Look for the verbs.
4. Is there anything repeated?

5. What is emphasized?

6. Is there anything in these passages that is related to other areas of scripture?

7. Are there things to be noted that are alike or unlike such as similes and metaphors?

**🕒 EXPLORE His Word (Interpretation)** (For Community Group discussion)

**What does God MEAN?**

8. When the Bible says, "We are his workmanship," what does that mean to you?

9. Are you using your spiritual gifts and natural talents in service to the Lord in this church or outside the Church?

10. Have you ever been guilty of using excuses for not serving the Lord?

11. Why did Jesus curse the Fig Tree?

③ **EMBRACE His Word (Application)** (For Community Group discussion)

Why does this MATTER to me?

12. Are you wisely using the time that God has given you?

13. Paul said that he wanted to finish his course, are you aware of the course God has for you, and are you fulfilling it?

**Summarize your thoughts on the passage**

Write about what God wants you to KNOW, to FEEL, and to DO...

## **SERMON NOTES**