

March 29, 2020

What is expected of me?

Matthew 25:14-29

Pastor Kirk Gambrell

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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.



In Matthew 25 we read the parable about three slaves that are each given a different amount of talents. The first two slaves invest the talents and double their money. The third slave takes the small amount that he is given and buries it, getting no return. Spider man tells us that with great power comes great responsibility. This parable shows that he is accurate in his understanding; however the responsibility is not just for the powerful but for all of us. All three of the slaves were expected to use what they were given to advance the Kingdom of God. Spider man only addressed the one who received a great deal but Scripture takes it to our level and applies it to everyone. We are all given some talents; the question is how we are going to use them. Join us this week as we talk about the talents that God has given and how we should go about finding the best way to use them.

*Each of you should use whatever gift
you have received to serve others,
as faithful stewards of God's grace*
1 Peter 4:10

Parable of the Talents

¹⁴“For *it is* just like a man *about* to go on a journey, who called his own slaves and entrusted his possessions to them. ¹⁵To one he gave five talents, to another, two, and to another, one, each according to his own ability; and he went on his journey. ¹⁶Immediately the one who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and gained five more talents. ¹⁷In the same manner the one who *had received* the two *talents* gained two more. ¹⁸But he who received the one *talent* went away, and dug a *hole* in the ground and hid his master’s money.

¹⁹“Now after a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰The one who had received the five talents came up and brought five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you entrusted five talents to me. See, I have gained five more talents.’ ²¹His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’

²²“Also the one who *had received* the two talents came up and said, ‘Master, you entrusted two talents to me. See, I have gained two more talents.’ ²³His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful

slave. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’

²⁴“And the one also who had received the one talent came up and said, ‘Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you scattered no *seed*. ²⁵And I was afraid, and went away and hid your talent in the ground. See, you have what is yours.’

²⁶“But his master answered and said to him, ‘You wicked, lazy slave, you knew that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I scattered no *seed*. ²⁷Then you ought to have put my money in the bank, and on my arrival I would have received my *money* back with interest. ²⁸Therefore take away the talent from him, and give it to the one who has the ten talents.’

²⁹“For to everyone who has, *more* shall be given, and he will have an abundance; but from the one who does not have, even what he does have shall be taken away. ³⁰Throw out the worthless slave into the outer darkness; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

o EXAMINE His Word (Observation) (For personal preparation)

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

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?

2 EXPLORE His Word (Interpretation) (For Community Group discussion)
What does God MEAN?

8. What is the "it" referring to in verse 14?

9. Why do you think each slave received a different amount of talents?

10. Why did the slave with one talent bury the talent?

11. Was it fair for the owner to expect the slaves to make a profit? How much did he expect?

12. How does the character of the slave owner reflect the character of God?

③ EMBRACE His Word (Application) (For Community Group discussion)
Why does this MATTER to me?

13. Has God give each of us talents?

14. What are some of the talents God has given the people around you? Sometimes it is easier to recognize the talent in someone even when they have trouble seeing it, share with each other the talents you see in them.

15. Whose responsibility was it to figure out what to do with the 5 talents given to the first slave?

16. How can we go about figuring out how to invest our talents? Is there anything we should be cautious about?

Summarize your thoughts on the passage

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

Sermon Notes