

youth room. These items will be sorted into personal bags and given to DCS to be distributed to teens who may not even have their own tooth brush or comb.

This Week's Bible Verse

Matthew 25:14-30

¹⁴ "Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. ¹⁵ To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. ¹⁶ The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. ¹⁷ So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. ¹⁸ But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. ¹⁹ "After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. ²⁰ The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.' ²¹ "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!' ²² "The man with two bags of gold also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with

money or wealth as God's unimaginable amount of blessings that He gives to each of us.

We also noticed that the Master did not give equally just as God does not give His blessings equally. He gives to each of us according to our ability.

So God blesses each of us differently and just as the Master, He expects us to do something with them. Each of the servants was given according to his ability along with everything they needed to double the amount they were given. Just as God gives us blessings, according to our ability, with everything we need to double them (or more) in His name for His Glory.

Many times we find ourselves being more concerned with what others have than in what God has given us. When we understand that God gives each of us whatever we need to accomplish His goal for us we find that we always have what we need to do what God needs us to do.

The servants who received the 5 bags and 2 bags each "put the money to work" and they had what they needed to double the amount they were given. The servant who received 1 bag was also given what he needed to double his amount but this servant was too afraid and hid the money instead.

When the Master returned and saw that the first two servants had doubled the amount given to them, he was very pleased and told them

"Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!"

When he saw that the third servant did nothing with his, he was very angry with him and said
"You wicked, lazy servant!"

The first two servants had a relationship of trust with the Master and they knew to use the money wisely to make more. The third servant didn't have that same relationship and so was afraid and hid the money.

We said that the third, unfaithful, servant didn't lose or waste the Master's gold. He returned the same one bag that he was given. But, what he did waste was the opportunity that he was given.

God blesses us as we are able to be trusted to use the opportunity wisely. When we prove ourselves to be

two bags of gold; see, I have gained two more.'²³ "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'²⁴ "Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed.²⁵ So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.'²⁶ "His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed?'²⁷ Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.²⁸ "So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags.²⁹ For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them.³⁰ And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

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trustworthy with whatever we've been given, He blesses us with even more.

When we don't have faith/trust in God we become afraid to use the opportunity showing that we are not trustworthy with what we've been given.

We asked how many times we are given the opportunity to share the Gospel with someone but we are afraid of their reaction or of what they may think about us? How many times do we have the opportunity to stand firm in our Christian faith but choose not to for fear of being judged? How many times are we given the opportunity to serve but are afraid we aren't ready or may do it wrong or say that we don't have time?

Jesus is telling His Disciples (and us) to not allow fear to keep us from wisely using whatever opportunities God gives them to help share the goodness of God with others, don't hide in fear. He is telling them that God gives us whatever we need to accomplish His goals for us and when we use them wisely, He gives us more.

God gives us many blessings with the opportunity to choose to use them wisely and share them with others or to hide and keep them to ourselves.

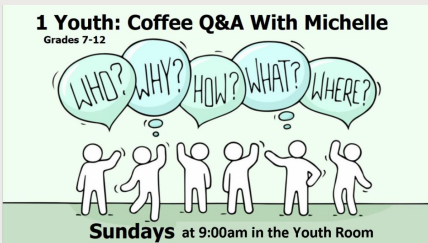
In other words, we are blessed to be a blessing to others and when we do, God blesses us with even more so that we can bless others even more.

So no matter what God blesses you with, whether it is money, possessions, intellect, health, a special talent, or whatever. trust God and choose to use it wisely to bring glory to God. When you show you can be trusted with little, you will be given a lot.

So, the point of the parable really has nothing to do with Gold or riches. The main point is we are to trust God and use whatever opportunities we have been given for His purposes and to grow in our faith. Clearly, God wants us to invest in our lives and not waste them.

Do this and one day God will say to you.

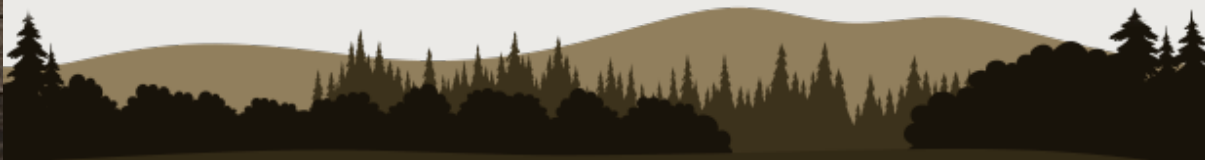
"Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!"



Pre-Service Coffee Q&A

Sundays at 9:00am

Join us in the Youth Room every Sunday, starting at 9:00am, for refreshments in a casual atmosphere for an opportunity for you and your friends to ask questions and discuss answers to your most pressing questions about God, Jesus, the Bible, other Religions, Christianity, or just about Life in general.



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