

Message Extras

a little something extra to keep you connected to Jesus this week

Message Extras accompany the [weekly message](#).

Describe a time you were given a responsibility and botched it.

Describe a time you were given a responsibility (work, home/family, church, school, community activity), and were acknowledged or rewarded for your efforts? (A little bragging is okay!)

Review briefly Matthew 24 and 25 noting this is called The Olivet Discourse – “the name given to the orderly and extended teaching given by Jesus Christ on the Mount of Olives. His subject is the end times.” And a reminder: “... a parable is a short story designed to convey a concept to be understood and/or a principle to be put into practice.” It is a story that creates a meaningful word picture with an emotional impact making the teaching memorable. <https://www.gotquestions.org/parable-lost-sheep-coin.html>

A good question for every parable is: What is the one main point Jesus teaches in the story?

Read Matthew 25:14-30

What is the main point the parable of the talents teaches us?

Here are some options. Which one comes closest to THE main point of the parable for you and why?

1. Some just have the Midas touch
2. Faithful obedience produces fruitfulness
3. People who live in fear don't accomplish much
4. The kingdom of God calls us to invest our money well
5. Use what you have been given for God's glory and purposes
6. The Master gives each person his or her just rewards

7. Hell is a reality
8. Other

While you can draw out each of these statements from Jesus' word picture parable of the talents, items two and five describe the main point of the parable. The parable's main point can be summarized in this way: "Faithfulness produces fruitfulness." Reflect on the one-talent-money-burier, "Delayed obedience is disobedience." So our speaker summarized the intent of the parable and to create a point of life application: "I think fruit is anything in a Christian's life that brings God glory." (Fred Knoll)

Let's dive into the story, look into supporting scripture, and challenge ourselves to bring God glory.

Responsibility: In the parable, a property owner gave the servants large sums of money. Based on today's values \$1 million, \$2 million, and \$5 million dollars, respectively. Two took this responsibility and created very successful business enterprises. The fearful one did not. This parable about the kingdom of God uses the property owner to represent God. He has come and given us gifts (time, talents and resources). He expects us to responsibly invest our gifts for His glory and to expand the kingdom of God.

Check out these Bible passages which describe our responsibility to the Lord in general. The first passage talks about our responsibility as doing good works and the second talks about this as bearing fruit. These terms describe our responsibility to our relationship to the Lord, again, in the parable described as the property owner.

Read Ephesians 2:8-9

How are you "investing" your life (time, resources, talents/gifts) through good works?

Where do you see fruit in your life? Ask a spouse, friend, or member of your small group to answer this about you. Sometimes others see good things in a way that we don't.

Read John 15:8

John 15 reminds us that by faith we are connected to the vine, Jesus, and have a responsibility to bear fruit. How does verse 8 or, if you read the whole chapter, help you think about your responsibilities as a follower of Jesus?

Next, responsibility requires response. Whenever we are given a responsibility, the implication is that we have the ability to respond or at least the ability to figure out how to

respond. If we do not respond, or act, we break relationship with the one who gave us the responsibility.

Here are three ways we can respond to our responsibility.

Settle in on one idea in each passage to chew on.

Words – Read Colossians 4:6

Wealth – Read 2 Corinthians 9:7

Walk – Read 1 Peter 2:12 or Matthew 25:31-40.

Lastly, a day of reckoning is coming. The property owner will return and evaluate our words, wealth, walk. Will we hear “Well done, good and faithful servant!” or the very harsh “You wicked and lazy servant!” Ouch.

Here is the list of truths noted from this parable of the talents. Each of these statements is true to some extent:

Which one is the main point?

Which point may hint at or describe a reason you haven’t responded to your responsibility?

Which point motivates you to respond?

Pray for someone you know who may be hung up on statements 3, 4, and 6

1. Some just have the Midas touch (others are more gifted, so I’m off the hook!)
2. Faithful obedience produces fruitfulness
3. People who live in fear don’t accomplish much (I just don’t want to mess it up!)
4. The kingdom of God calls us to invest our money well (The church just wants my money)
5. Use what you have been given for God’s glory and purposes
6. The Master gives each person his or her just rewards (I’ll try to do enough to get an atta boy or girl)
7. Hell is a reality
8. Other

